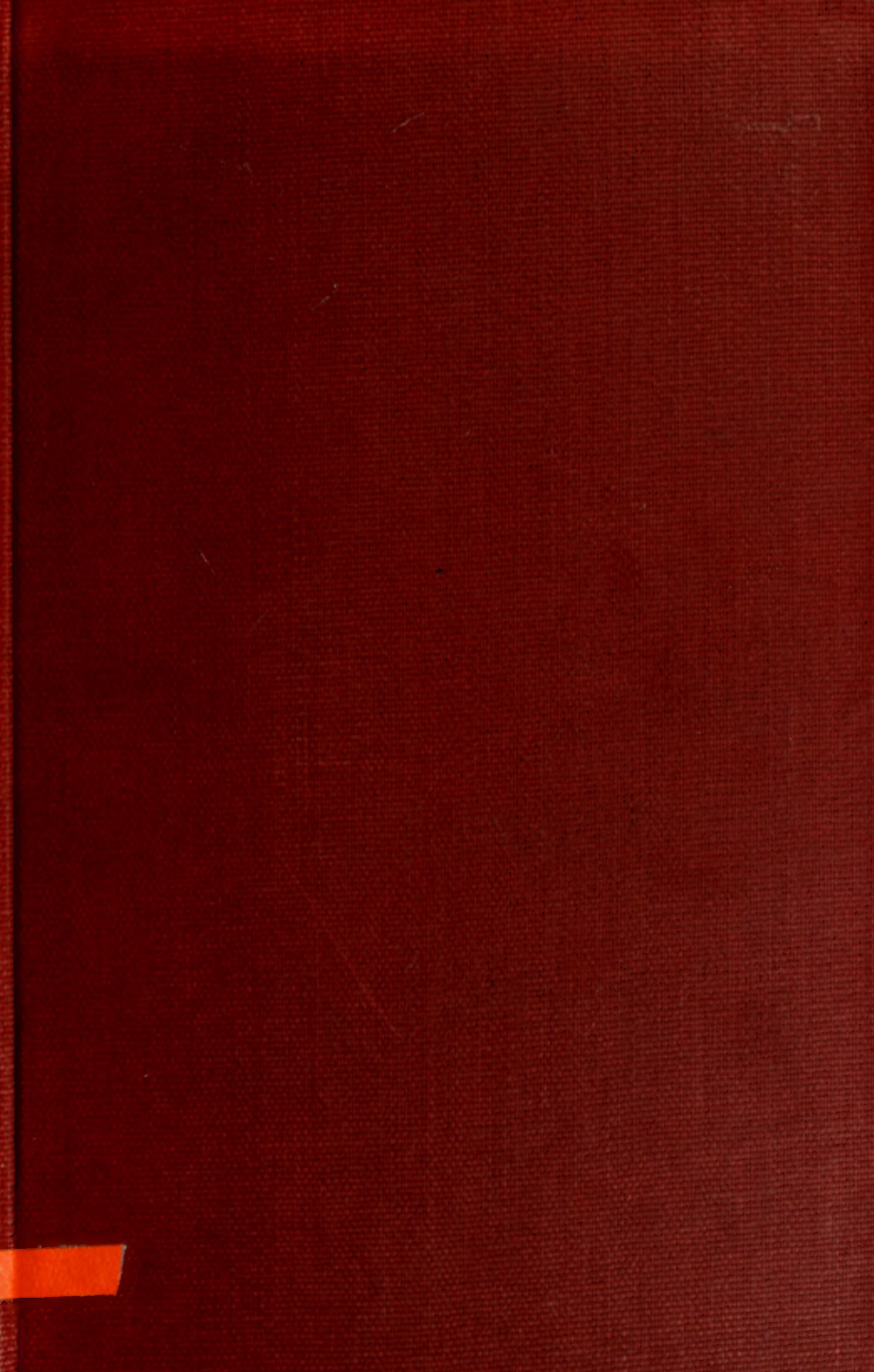
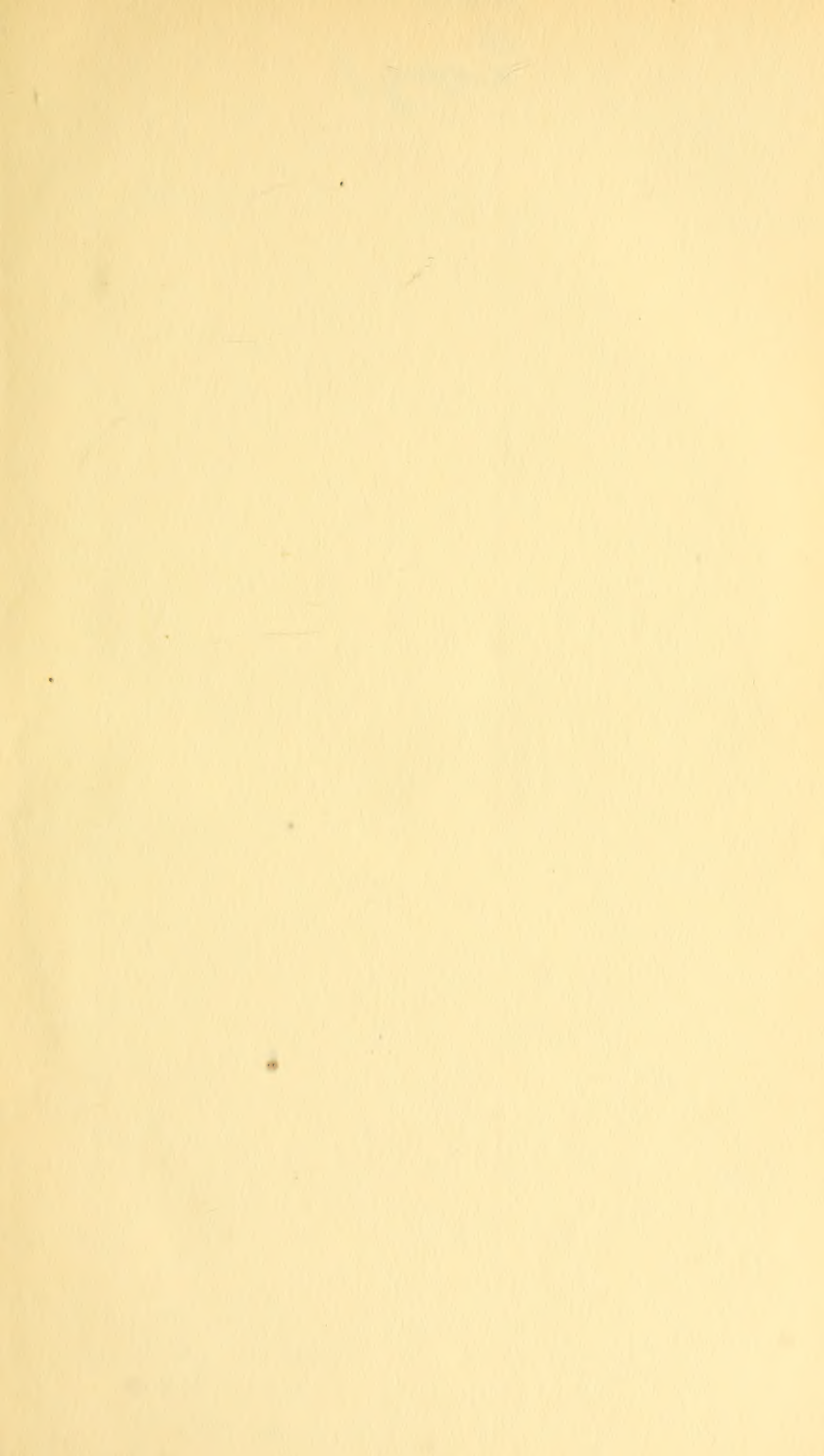






AMERICAN FOUNDATION
FOR THE BLIND INC.



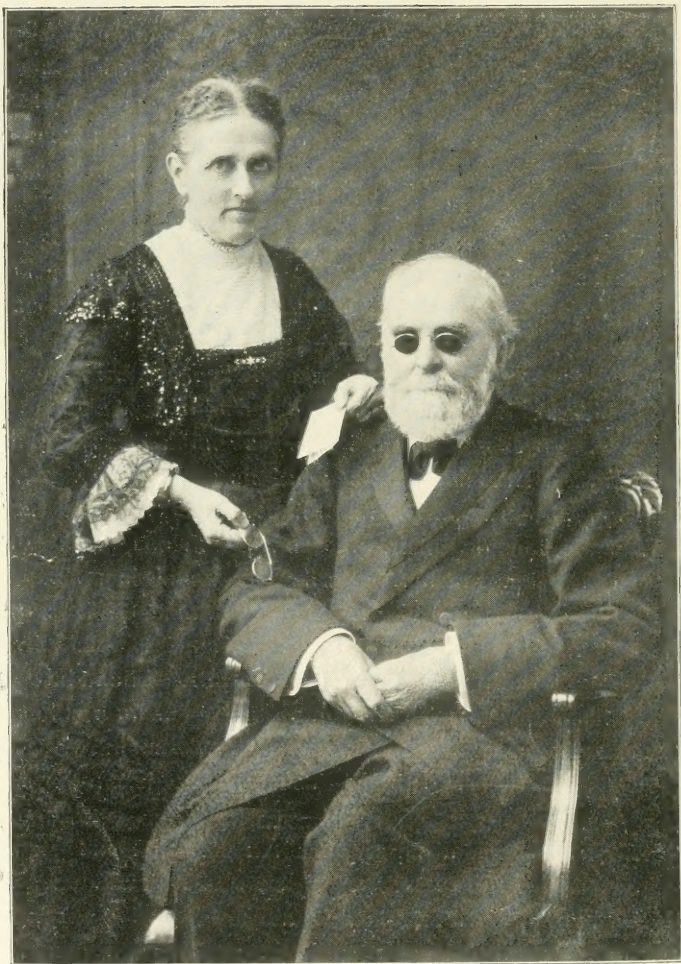
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SIR FRANCIS AND LADY CAMPBELL.

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. I.

JANUARY 20TH, 1913.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. It is with much regret that we have to announce the death of Councillor J. J. Plater, on October 31st, in his 74th year. He lost his sight at the age of 19 through an attack of rheumatism, and went to the Royal Institution for the Blind in Birmingham, and learnt basket making. In 1863 he started business on his own account in Birmingham with little or no capital, but by dogged perseverance and continuous hard work he built up a large and well-known basket-making business, which now employs 120 hands. He was a member of a great many local committees and public bodies, and at the last election was returned at the head of the poll for the Sparkhill Ward.

2. The death of Mr. Charles Wood Dudley, who laboured devotedly in the cause of the Blind for the past six years, is also a severe loss. Mr. Dudley began in 1906 to work as a voluntary writer for the National Library for the Blind. He taught scores of volunteers to write Braille and to love it as he did himself, and the inspiration of his teaching will be remembered by all who were privileged to work with him. His insistence that "only the best was just good enough" in voluntary work has, it may be hoped, permanently raised the

standard of hand-written Braille. By his death the Library has suffered an irreparable loss.

3. Mr. Guy M. Campbell has been appointed Principal of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, S.E., in the place of his father Sir Francis J. Campbell.

4. Mr. G. C. Brown, M.A., has been appointed Headmaster of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester in the room of the Rev. Thomas Barnard, M.A., who has resigned.

5. Mr. W. H. Jackson, late student of the Royal Normal College and of Wadham College, Oxford, has been ordained deacon, and appointed curate to Great Ilford Church.

6. Mr. J. A. Kreamer, an old student at the Royal Normal College and Chairman of the Blind Social Aid Society and Literary Union, was elected last November on the Stepney Borough Council, as an Independent Municipal Reform candidate. Mr. Kreamer, though totally blind, visited every elector's house in the constituency, accompanied by one of his children. He deals in all kinds of musical instruments, and used his piano shop as his committee-room. He is Chairman of the North Ward Unionist Association and ex-Chairman of the Conservative Club, and has the distinction of being the only blind man elected as a member of a Metropolitan Borough Council.

Mr. Thomas Walker, who is also blind, was returned at the head of the poll for Queen's Ward, Lancaster.

7. The following notice appeared in a recent number of *The Guardian*:—The Rev. J. J. Chambers, who is about to resign the Vicarage of St. Barnabas, Southampton, lost his sight eleven years ago. Since then he has administered Communion to 22,000 persons, and has preached 1,200 sermons. In a farewell message he says that now the building debt is practically cleared off he feels that it is best to make way for a

Vicar "who certainly will have eyesight and probably will have youth."

8. Andrew Fraser and Wilfrid Kershaw, Gardner Scholars at the Royal Normal College, have passed the Licentiate Examination of the Royal Academy of Music in Pianoforte Playing in Class A, and James Mactaggart has passed the Intermediate Grade of the Examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music.

9. Mr. Victor Spanner, Mus. Bac., Durham, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., an old student of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, has been appointed organist at St. Mark's Church, North End, Portsmouth.

10. Five students from the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, were appointed during last year to posts as organists in Scotland. From the same Institution Mr. James McNeil passed the A.R.C.O. Examination last July, and Mr. William Murray, who is still a student at the School, and is taking the Arts Course at Edinburgh University, passed the following examinations for his degree:—Political Economy (1st class distinction), Logic, Moral Philosophy (1st class distinction and 2nd prizeman).

11. Miss Gladys Juden, an old student of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Nottingham, has obtained a post, as typist, at the London office of a Birmingham firm, and Miss Elsie Blakey, another student, has been appointed a typist in the Education Committee's offices at Wakefield. The former student was educated up to 16 at the L.C.C. school at Elm Court, and the latter at the school, Blenheim Walk, Leeds, before going to Nottingham.

12. Miss Sarah Hill, a totally blind pupil at the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, who is 18 years of age, has just completed her training as a stenographer and

typist, and (owing to a large extent to the strenuous efforts made on her behalf by the Labour Exchanges at Birmingham and Worcester) has secured a good post as typist with an important and very old established business concern in Worcester. She was admitted as a pupil into the Birmingham Institution in 1901. She is now capable of taking shorthand notes at the rate of 90 words per minute, and can transcribe her notes upon a Remington typewriter rapidly and accurately.

It is confidently hoped that Miss Hill, who was educated at the instance of the Staffordshire Education Committee, will do well, and by her good work encourage other large employers of labour to give a trial to blind typists, of whom many more might be trained were it not for the difficulty of obtaining situations for them.

This case strengthens our opinion that more use ought to be made of the Labour Exchanges in obtaining employment for the Blind.

13. We were pleased to have a visit from Mr. Nakamura, a blind Japanese, who has come to England to study the English methods of educating and training the Blind. He proposes to visit several Institutions—at present he is at the one at Nottingham—and to remain in England until after the International Conference next year.

14. The Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind in the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties was incorporated on December 3rd.

15. We repeat the following important announcements:—

(a). The next examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind takes place in London in May, and all applications from intending candidates must be made on or before March 25th, to the Hon. Registrar, Mr. Henry Stainsby, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

(b). The Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind have arranged for a Holiday Course of Lectures to

Teachers, to be held in the East Anglian Schools, Gorleston-on-Sea, during Easter Week, on March 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th. All particulars can be obtained from Mr. W. Littlewood, Hon. Secretary to the Organizing Committee, School for the Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool. It will be remembered that similar lectures held last year for the first time, were an unqualified success. We, therefore, hope that many teachers will avail themselves of this opportunity. Applications should be sent in before February 17th.

(c). All persons interested in the College have long realized the fact that there are teachers of standing, experience, and value who cannot be expected to sit for the College Certificate, but who should, nevertheless, be recognized by the College as fully qualified to teach the Blind.

The matter has had the careful consideration of the Committee and of the Board of Fellows, with the result that the Council have decided that all teachers who have had a continuous service of 15 years expiring 31st December, 1912, in any Certified School for the Blind in Great Britain shall, subject to the approval of the Board of Education in each case, be granted a recognition of Status.

Applications for recognition must reach the Honorary Registrar not later than 24th June.

This form of recognition will not be repeated, but all teachers will, in future, be expected to take the College Certificate by examination.

16. Our grateful thanks are due for the quick responses to the request in our last number for a copy of No. 56. No less than 13 copies were sent us, and most of the kind donors expressed a wish that no remittance should be sent.

17. On December 9th Mr. W. H. Stone, Headmaster of the Royal School for the Blind at Edinburgh, delivered a lecture at the Royal Scottish Society of Arts on "Eighty years' progress in embossed printing for the Blind." He referred to the fact that as long ago as 1832 the Society offered a gold medal for the

best contribution dealing with embossed type, and he then traced in a clear and interesting manner the improvements in raised type up to the present day, including the Braille printing now being carried on.

18. It is with much regret that we hear that Mr. James Townson, J.P., has decided not to seek re-election as Hon. Secretary of the Accrington and District Association for the Blind. Mr. Townson has been Hon. Secretary ever since 1875, and has devoted much time to the work of the Society, especially in regard to the prevention of blindness. This long and honourable period of voluntary service is, indeed, worth recording. The workrooms, shop, library and office are now all under one roof at 32, Bank Street, Accrington.

19. A Braille edition of Thiers "Expedition to Moscow" in French has been added to the Public Library at Oxford.

20. An Association of Teachers of the Blind has recently been formed, and already there are 90 members. We hope in our next number to give a full account of it. The organ of the Association is *The Teacher of the Blind*, which is incorporated in *The Braille Review*.

21. In November last Mrs. C. H. Price handed to the Chairman of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Birmingham a cheque for £1,000, as the result of a bazaar held last June, for the Henry Stainsby Pension Fund. Hitherto only three pensions of 2/6 a week had been granted, but now possibly eight more can be given. Many thanks are due to Mrs. Price and her helpers at the Bazaar. This is not the first time that she has been instrumental in raising a large sum of money for the benefit of the local Blind.

22. Moon's Society, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton, has lately published the following books in the Moon type:—"David Copperfield," "The Seven Poor Travellers," "The Wreck of the

Golden Mary," "A Message from the Sea," "The Cricket on the Hearth," "The Vicar of Wakefield," "The Wood Carver of Lympus," "Far in the Forest," "A Tale of Two Cities," "The Rosary," "The Worth of Service," "The Idylls of the King," "Dedication and the Coming of Arthur," "Lancelot and Elaine," "The Holy Grail," "Guinevere." Also "Exodus" in Tamil.

23. The report of the 21st year's work of that excellent Society, "The Sunbeam Mission," has been issued, and shows how the lives of thousands of the poor and suffering have been brightened by its influence. The branch for the Blind, with Miss B. Taylor, 39, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, S.E., as the kind-hearted Hon. Secretary, befriends many blind children, and has given them much help during times of great poverty and need. Testimonies, as to the great value of this branch, from teachers and others interested in the Blind, are given on five slips of different coloured paper fastened together, and are conclusive evidence of the happiness which is brought to the blind children of the poorer classes by kind friends who write to them in Braille, and take an interest in their lives. Anyone wishing to join this branch should apply to the Hon. Secretary, and send 6d. in stamps if under 17, or 1/- if over 17, as entrance fee.

24. Two meetings of the Committee appointed to organize the Conference next year were held in London on October 26th at 11.30 a.m. and at 2 p.m. There were present—Miss Austin and Miss B. Taylor, Messrs. G. M. Campbell and W. H. Dixon, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, Stuart Johnson, J. H. Mines, A. B. Norwood, H. W. P. Pine, M. Priestley, A. Siddall, H. Stainsby (Hon. Secretary), W. M. Stone, H. C. Warrilow, and H. J. Wilson (Chairman).

The Chairman cordially welcomed the new members, Miss B. Taylor, Messrs. G. M. Campbell, Stuart Johnson, and J. H. Mines.

A financial statement was submitted showing that all the liabilities in connection with the Exeter Conference had been

met, and that there was a small balance, which it was decided to transfer to the credit of the next Conference account. Suggestions with regard to the conduct of the next Conference, to the duties of the sub-committees and to the subjects for papers, were fully discussed. The sub-committees are as follows: Music and Entertainments (Chairman not yet appointed); Hospitality (Chairman, Miss B. Taylor); Advertising and Invitations (Chairman, Mr. Guy M. Campbell); Exhibition and Demonstrations (Chairman, Mr. Stuart Johnson); and Finance Committee (Chairman, Mr. P. M. Evans). Sub-committees were also appointed to revise the regulations, &c., and to arrange for services and preachers at places of worship on Conference Sunday. The Chairman and Secretary were appointed *ex officio* members of all Committees, and were also requested to inspect the principal halls and to report to the General Committee as to the most suitable ones for the meetings of the Conference. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Committee at York on January 25th.

25. The 1st report of the dépôt for work of the Blind, 53, Church Road, Wimbledon, is very satisfactory. Nearly all the takings have gone to blind people working at their own homes. A chair-caner and a mat-maker have each received just under £10. There are 20 blind men and women employed, and everything sold at the dépôt is the work of a blind person. The dépôt was started by Miss J. Hastings, solely as a means of helping the Blind, working at their own homes, to dispose of their goods, and we congratulate her on the venture proving so successful.

26. The new buildings of the London Society for Teaching the Blind, Swiss Cottage, Hampstead, were opened on November 16th, and were afterwards inspected by a large number of visitors. The meeting was presided over by Mr. F. O. Smithers, Chairman of the Society, and several speeches were made. In acknowledging the vote of thanks to Mrs. Wharrie for opening the new buildings, and naming the new

girls schoolroom "The Harben Schoolroom," Mr. Wharrie said they must get rid of the deficit of £3,000, and for that purpose he promised to make a donation of £500 and an annual subscription of £25. The new buildings include bright and airy schoolroom and workroom for the girls, a large showroom at the entrance of the building, and additional accommodation in the boys schoolroom. A handsome clock for the front of the Institution has been presented by Mr. Pretor Chandler.

27. At the meeting at the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind on Founder's Day the chair was taken by Mr. F. Priestman (President) who gave a full and satisfactory report on the progress of the Institution, and stated that he had spoken to Mr. John Burns and had received a very sympathetic reply in regard to the Bill, Education of the Blind (No. 2), introduced on October 28th by Mr. Alan Burgoyne. The Lord Mayor also spoke, and said that probably in a very short time the Local Government Board would sanction the building of a special school for the Blind in Bradford. The money had been borrowed, the plans prepared, and he hoped the foundation-stone would soon be laid. There would be accommodation for 72 resident, and 53 day, scholars. The estimated cost of the school is £15,750.

28. A copy of a song, entitled "Sing to Me Child of Light," has been kindly sent to us. The words are by Lady Algernon Percy, and the music by Miss Ada E. Thornevell, formerly a Gardner scholar at the Royal Institution for the Blind, Nottingham. The price is 2/- nett, and the publishers are Messrs. Weekes and Co., 14, Hanover Street, Regent Street, London, W. The words refer to blindness in a touching manner, and are set to appropriate music.

29. New schemes have been prepared by the Charity Commissioners dealing with West's Trusts, administered by the Clothworkers' Company. It is the intention to promote all the existing pensioners of £5 to £10, except in cases where £5

are considered adequate. The limit of assured annual income is £24.

30. The new school and workshop for the Blind at Bolton will cost a little over £5,000. The site has been secured, and it is expected that the new buildings will be opened next September. A sale of work was held in December to raise some of the necessary funds, as £2,000 more are required. Needless to say that Mrs. Greg, zealous in all good work for the Blind, was the moving spirit at the Sale, and was well supported by a loyal band of workers.

31. It is with much regret that we hear that the Home for blind children, Devonshire Road, Liverpool, was closed at Christmas. The school has been in existence since 1874, and much good work has been done there for blind children up to the age of 16 years.

32. The Bourne Workshops for the Blind, presented by Miss Emily H. Bourne, as a memorial to her family to the New York Association for the Blind, was opened on October 16th. The new building, which is at 338, East 35th Street, New York, has four stories and a roof garden, and is provided with ample facilities for work. There are already 50 broom-makers and chair-caners at work, and accommodation for 100 more. Miss Winifred Holt made a very appropriate speech at the opening, and said "Work only is not enough for our Association to offer. We must seek to do good work, to control the market for our wares on account of their excellence, not because they appeal to the eye of pity."

33. An interesting table showing the proportions and numbers of the Blind in England and Wales at various ages from infancy to old age has been drawn up by Mr. A. B. Norwood, and appears in the last report of the Yorkshire School for the Blind. The largest number (4,289) are between 65 and 75 years of age. There are 3,910 between 55 and 65, and 3,443 between 75 and 85. Between 25 and 35 there are only 2,386.

34. The Editor of the *Weekly Summary for the Blind*, Shere, Surrey, announces that the following can be obtained from the Editor at the above address:—"Friendship Calendar for 1913," consisting of 7 sheets to hang on a wall, price 1/1 post free, and Text Book, "Day by Day," eleventh series. Text and devotional reading for every day of one month. Interpointed, 16 small sheets in paper cover, 8d. post free; in boards, 1/8 post free.

35. The article, "Dundee's Blind Citizens," by Mr. Colin Macdonald, is, for want of space, regretfully but unavoidably postponed to the next number.

THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Annual General Meeting of the Union of Unions for the Blind was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on October 12th, when there were present from—

Metropolitan Union. Miss Bennett, Miss Taylor, Mr. Guy Campbell and Mr. H. J. Wilson.

Midland Union. Miss Merivale, Mr. Burrows, Mr. Pine and Mr. Thurman.

North of England Union. Miss Heywood and Mr. Illingworth.

North-West Union. Miss Comber, Miss Griffith, Miss Rayner and Archdeacon Barber.

Western Counties Union. Rev. S. F. Harris and Captain H. Metcalfe.

Mr. Stuart Johnson, Hon. Treasurer, was also present.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Archdeacon of Chester.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were presented on behalf of Miss Sadgrove, Miss Wood, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Munby.

Mr. Wilson submitted the draft Constitution as amended at the last meeting for final revision. A letter was read from Mr. Munby proposing the insertion of the following clause:—

“Representatives shall not have power at any annual or other meetings to bind their Union at such meetings on any subject which has not been previously considered by the Union they represent and by whom they have been previously instructed on that subject.”

On the motion of Archdeacon Barber, seconded by Mr. Pine, this clause was unanimously agreed to. Other verbal alterations were made and on the motion of Mr. Illingworth, seconded by Miss Rayner, it was resolved unanimously that the Constitution, as altered, be and is hereby approved.

It was reported that the Sub-Committee had met and prepared a Memorandum in reference to blind people in Work-houses. This Memorandum, which was read, had been forwarded by Mr. Wilson to Mr. John Burns and a reply was now awaited.

It was reported that the Midland Union had consented to add Rutland to its area, and that South Wales had agreed to accept Hereford.

It was reported that Mr. Stuart Johnson's book on Pensions had been issued to the Secretaries of each of the different Unions and to other workers for the Blind. It was unanimously agreed that a sincere and hearty vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. Johnson for the careful way in which he had compiled this book and for his generosity in supplying copies.

It was further reported that Miss Holt, of New York, had prepared “A short life of Henry Fawcett for all children everywhere,” and that it had been published in Braille by the B.F.B.A. and in ordinary type in New York.

On the motion of Mr. Pine, seconded by Mr. Thurman, Mr. Wilson was unanimously re-elected Chairman.

In thanking the Committee for his re-election, he desired to congratulate the different Unions on the progress which they had been able to make. He specially welcomed the new members of the Western Union, and felt sure that now there would be rapid progress in that Union. He referred to the approaching Conference of 1914, and he hoped that everyone would do his utmost to make it a great success. In conclusion he re-

ferred to the resignation of Sir Francis Campbell, and felt sure that every member present would join with him in paying a tribute to the great work that he had accomplished during his life. No other blind man had done so much as Sir Francis to raise the status of the class, or bring about a higher standard of education and training. He was sure it was their earnest wish that the remainder of his life should be passed in that peaceful rest and quiet so richly deserved and amply earned.

On the motion of Archdeacon Barber, seconded by Mr. Burrows, Miss Beatrice Taylor and Mr. Guy Campbell were unanimously re-elected Hon. Secretaries.

On the motion of Mr. Pine, seconded by Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Stuart Johnson was unanimously re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

Mr. Pine gave a very lucid statement as to how the present Bill to aid the Blind had come into being, explaining the efforts that had been made to secure a joint Bill with the National League. In spite of meetings held with the Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee this had, as yet, been found impossible, and the Bill that was to be introduced by Mr. Alan Burgoyne next week was the Bill prepared by representatives of the Institutions and Workshops. Mr. Pine was thanked for his remarks.

The draft preamble for the Report of the Union of Unions was read by the Hon. Secretary, and after one or two verbal alterations, approved.

Mr. Wilson reported that special leaflets had been issued to the C.E.M.S. and the Y.M.C.A.—the latter with a few introductory remarks from Lord Kinnaird—and that he hoped the cause of the Blind would be much benefited by this distribution.

The Hon. Secretary submitted a statement he had obtained from the Local Government Board showing that there are 213 Boroughs which have made Ophthalmia Neonatorum compulsorily notifiable. The Hon. Secretary was requested to enquire from the Local Government Board how many Boroughs had not made this disease notifiable, and who were the fit and proper officers to approach with regard to having the matter taken up.

Miss Heywood, Miss Merivale, Miss Comber and the Rev. S. F. Harris gave particulars of the work in their respective Unions.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. A Meeting of the Executive Committee, was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on 5th October, when there were present: Mr. Wilson in the Chair, Mrs. le Mesurier, Miss Harris Browne, Miss Taylor, Miss Wheeler, Sir John Brickwood, Mr. Guy Campbell and Miss Bennett.

In regard to the Incorporation of the Union, Mr. Frost attended and explained that he had taken the Memorandum and Articles of Association to the Board of Trade and now wished to submit the slight alterations which were required. On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Wilson sincerely thanked Mr. Frost for his careful and lucid explanation of the Memorandum and Articles, and asked him to kindly complete the matter in due course.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, Mrs. Goodhart, Miss Charnock, Miss Moon, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Stuart Johnson and Mr. Stainsby.

The Chairman on behalf of the Committee sincerely congratulated Sir John Brickwood on his recovery to health, and heartily welcomed him to the meeting.

It was reported that Mr. Johnson had presented a copy of the new edition of his book "Annuities to the Blind," to the office, and had also lent two large musical boxes to be lent out to schools and elsewhere. The Hon. Secretary was requested to thank Mr. Johnson.

It was further reported that Miss Beatrice Taylor had presented a seaman's chest to the office for the purpose of keeping papers. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded her for the gift.

The Chairman read a letter from Mr. Stainsby regretting that on the ground of health and increase of work, he felt compelled to tender his resignation as a member, both of the

Executive and the Case Committee. The resignation was accepted, but with very great regret.

Further meetings of the Executive Committee were held on December 7th and January 4th, reports of which are unavoidably crowded out.

Midland Counties Union. This Union is making very satisfactory and steady progress, as was evidenced by the very interesting reports read at the meeting of the Executive Committee held at Oxford on November 2nd. The report by Miss Edith Wright, Organizing Secretary for Worcestershire and Staffordshire, and well-known as a devoted and capable worker for the Blind, shows a vast amount of good organization work achieved in a few months. She has visited many of the largest districts, and in some has found that nothing is being done for the Blind. Arrangements are being made for holding public meetings at Worcester, Dudley, &c., and it is hoped that the County After Care Committee may be the foundation for an After Care and Visiting Committee for the Blind.

Mrs. Dennett made a report on the work of the Peterborough Blind Visiting Committee, and stated that there were many partially blind children who were being dealt with by the Local Education Authority. It is hoped to start a rush mat industry.

The Hon. Secretary of the Warwickshire Society for the Blind stated that organization had been the chief business of the year, and that now there were visitors for almost all the parishes in the Diocese. Captain Peirson Webber is starting a blind worker's Labour Bureau.

Buckinghamshire is well organized, largely through the energy and devotion of Mrs. Knapp, Hon. Secretary of the General Committee. There was no organization for the Blind when the work was commenced, and now the County is divided into four divisions, each with its own Committee and Hon. Secretary, and nearly every town and village has a visitor.

There are 280 blind persons on the County Register, and a County Library of Braille literature has been started. An united effort was made at the Waddesdon Agricultural Show to dispose

of work from the whole county, and much interest was shown in the blind workers who attended.

A report of the Oxford Society for the Blind was given by Miss Bullock, Hon. Secretary. The Society was founded 30 years ago, and reorganized in 1905. There is one man who visits and teaches in the City and County, and there is a library of embossed books.

It must not be forgotten that the seed of all the good work being done in this, as well as the other Counties of the Union, was sown with tact and judgment by visits from Miss J. Merivale, Central Secretary.

Western Counties Union. The following persons form the Committee of this Union:—Mr. F. Richardson Cross, Chairman; Captain Metcalfe, Vice-Chairman; Rev. S. F. Harris, Hon. Secretary, *pro. tem.*; Miss Badcock, Taunton; Mr. Bankes, Salisbury; Mr. Barrett, Bristol; Miss G. Beavan, Bath; Captain Berthon, Cheltenham; Miss Buckingham, North Devon; Rev. E. G. Cocks, Devonport; Rev. C. F. Hardy, Bristol; Mr. Gilbert, Plymouth; Miss Karlake, South Devon; Miss Rogers, Cornwall; Mrs. Sewell, Bristol; Miss Smith, Weston-super-Mare; and Miss Brockwell, Frenchay.

A meeting was held on October 11th at the Workshops for the Blind at Bristol, when there were present—Mr. Cross in the chair, Mrs. Sewell, Miss G. Beavan, Captain Metcalfe, Messrs. Barrett and Stevens, and the Hon. Secretary.

Regrets for inability to attend were received from the Misses Buckingham, Rogers and Smith, Captain Berthon, and Messrs. Bankes and Gilbert.

The matter of the appointment of an Organizing Secretary was discussed at length. It was resolved that if a thoroughly satisfactory candidate were found, and provided sufficient financial help were forthcoming, an Organizing Secretary be appointed, the selection being entrusted to a sub-committee consisting of Mrs. Sewell, Miss Beavan, Miss Karlake, Captain Metcalfe, Mr. Barrett, and the Hon. Secretary.

Arrangements were made for the appointment of Honorary District Representatives in every district of the six counties, and also for approaching each of the existing agencies for the Blind with a view to obtaining from them a contribution to the funds of the Union, and also for securing private subscriptions.

A long discussion followed with reference to steps being taken to induce the local authorities to include Ophthalmia Neonatorum in the list of notifiable diseases.

The increase of the number of Home Teaching Societies and the provision of books on loan to the Blind were named amongst other things to be taken in hand at once by the Union.

It is intended to have public meetings in the large centres of population to give information about the needs of the Blind, and so to evoke local interest and assistance.

Mrs. Vere Stead, of Newton Abbott, was appointed Organizing Secretary of this Union on January 3rd.

ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE AND ACADEMY OF MUSIC FOR THE BLIND.

Founded 1872.

A Sketch of its History, Organization and Work.

* Motto: "Musica lux in Tenebris."

HISTORICAL STATEMENT. The Royal Normal College owes its establishment to the meeting in January, 1871, of the late Dr. T. R. Armitage and Mr. F. J. Campbell. This meeting was brought about by one of those chance occurrences, which seem of little consequence at the moment, but prove to be a turning-point in one's life.

Mr. F. J. Campbell, with his wife and son, arrived in London, January 20th, on his return journey from Germany to

* This motto, adopted when the College was established, was inscribed on a medal awarded for progress in music at the Tennessee School for the Blind, January, 1846. The motto has influenced the work of my life, and has been an encouragement to many pupils of the Royal Normal College, F.J.C.

the United States, intending to sail from Liverpool in two days. In the coffee-room of the hotel (where the party were stopping), a gentleman asked Mr. Campbell if he would like to attend a "blind tea meeting." As he was interested in all that concerned the Blind, he readily accepted the invitation, although he wondered what the new, strange term "blind tea meeting" indicated. At this gathering, after the tea and speeches were ended, he moved about among the blind men and women, and soon learned they were nearly all charity pensioners. The poverty, helplessness, and dependence of the Blind in the great Metropolis affected him so powerfully, that yielding to a sudden impulse to try and help them, he visited the steamer office the next morning, postponed his sailing, and called upon Dr. Armitage, to whom he had a letter of introduction from the clergyman of the English Church in Berlin.

Three years previously, Dr. Armitage had founded the British and Foreign Blind Association for promoting the Education and Employment of the Blind, by ascertaining all that could be learnt from different countries on the subject, endeavouring to supply deficiencies, diffusing information, and attempting to bring about greater harmony among existing Societies and Institutions. In December, 1870, he had read a paper before the "Society of Arts," entitled "Piano-tuning as an employment for the Blind." In this paper he gave an account of his visit to the "Institution Nationale des Jeunes Aveugles" in Paris, and the successful results obtained by the tuners who were trained there; he urged that English Institutions for the Blind should turn their attention specially to this branch of the work, and that the Metropolitan Institutions ought to take the lead. Different Institutions and classes in London were visited, and the best methods of effecting the needed reforms were discussed. None of the existing Institutions wished to introduce changes, therefore it was decided in May to open an experimental school. Dr. Armitage promised £1,000 if another £2,000 could be obtained. Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, and Edinburgh were visited, and in November, the £3,000 having been raised, an Executive Committee was formed.

Formation of Executive Committee. In forming this Committee great assistance was received from Mr. C. A. Miner and the St. George's Charity Organization Society. The Hon. William Ashley was elected Chairman, the Hon. E. P. Thesiger, Vice-Chairman, Dr. Armitage, Treasurer, Mr. C. H. Chambers, Hon. Secretary, Mr. William Shaen, Hon. Solicitor, Mr. F. J. Campbell, Principal, and the other members of the Committee were Dr. Thos. Hawksley, Colonel W. R. Strange, Messrs. Dudley Smith, William Tebb, and C. A. Miner. The Trustees were the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Shaftesbury, the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Lichfield, Geo. Moore, Esq., and W. H. Smith, Esq. Her Majesty, the late Queen Victoria, graciously consented to become Patron, and granted the use of the word "Royal" in the title. The kind interest of Her Majesty and all these noblemen and gentlemen never ceased, and to their wise counsel and generous help, the College owes much of its success. In July of the next year His Grace, the late Duke of Westminster, became President, and during his lifetime took a practical interest in the work, being next to Dr. Armitage, the largest donor.

Location. The next step was to find a suitable site for the School. An essential part of the musical training was to bring the pupils constantly in contact with musical performances of the highest class, and at that time the Crystal Palace was the centre of musical life in England. The Saturday Concerts, under the batôn of Mr., afterwards Sir August Manns, had a world-wide reputation, and every day there were orchestral concerts and organ recitals. The hearty sympathy shown by the Secretary of the Palace, Mr., afterwards Sir George Grove, and Sir August Manns, and the kind help afforded by granting the pupils free admission to all the Concerts, decided the matter. Three houses, intended for shops, near the Crystal Palace Station, in Anerley Road, were rented; they were thrown together, furnishing good and comfortable accommodation. A large field at the back of the three houses provided that active

out-door exercise which the Principal has always made the basis of all other training. Mr. Campbell sent to Dr. S. G. Howe, of the Perkins Institution, South Boston, where he had previously held the position of Musical Director, for two school-teachers, Misses Greene and Faulkner, and one for pianoforte tuning, Mr. J. W. Smith. All the music teaching was given by the Principal for the first year.

Opening, The first two pupils, sent from Leeds by Mr.
March 1st, and Mrs. W. J. Armitage, arrived March 1st,
1872, 1872, and soon others entered from Liverpool,
 Glasgow, Edinburgh, and London. Teachers
 and pupils formed a happy family, not too much bound by
 rules and time-tables; the pleasant days often found them
 in the Palace grounds, and many Concerts were attended
 every week. The younger members of "the family" were
 trained on the plan now advocated in some schools, work hard
 in the morning, and have a good time in the afternoon. It may
 interest your readers to know that the Braille library consisted
 of John Gilpin, Simple Susan, and Anecdotes of Dogs, but a
 good supply of books in Moon type was kindly given by
 Sir Charles and Lady Lowther.

By the end of the year the pupils numbered 45, and the three
 houses and an adjoining one were so crowded, it was necessary
 to find a permanent location in the neighbourhood. The
 President, with the members of the Executive Committee and
 Principal, examined a property on the crest of the hill, consist-
 ing of a gentleman's residence and six acres of land. As they
 walked through the grounds, there were so many terraces, slopes,
 and steps, the President thought it an unsuitable place for blind
 people, unless the Principal felt it would be a kindness to remove
 them from this world. The latter replied that the world was
 not made level for the comfort and convenience of blind people,
 and they must be prepared for the ups and downs of life.

Present In selecting the permanent site, care was taken
Site, to secure ample playgrounds, which are even
 more important for the full development of blind

children than schoolrooms and educational appliances. For the purchase of the present freehold ground, the College is greatly indebted to the generous aid of the Duke of Westminster, Dr. Armitage, and Mr. Henry Gardner.

Buildings. A large building with Concert Hall, school-rooms, and sleeping accommodation, was erected, which was opened in 1876. The house already on the property known as "The Mount" was utilized for domestic purposes, while other buildings were used for the Pianoforte Tuning Department. For the Concert Hall, Dr. Armitage gave a large three manual organ, and at the same time two smaller pipe organs. Two more pipe organs have since been added, all now worked by electricity. Before the main building was finished, the Armitage Gymnasium, so named on account of the donor, was built, the first erected in any School for the Blind.

Fawcett Memorial. Through the kind co-operation of the Fawcett Memorial Committee, the playgrounds were enlarged, a skating rink built, boats, cycles, swings, etc., added to the equipment. At the same time Dr. Armitage gave the money to provide a Swimming Bath, then a novelty in a School for the Blind.

In the outset the Institution was established as a College for older Students, and the training of teachers was to be one of its aims, hence the word "Normal" in the title, often a puzzle, this being the word used in France and America for Training Colleges. It was found, however, that the early education of blind children in music, which is so essential if they are to achieve practical success in the profession, was entirely neglected.

Addition of Kindergarten, Preparatory and Technical Departments. Through the generous help of the Gardner Trust, the College was enabled, in 1882, to open a Kindergarten and Preparatory Department, purchasing for that purpose two houses adjoining the lower grounds. There were also so many applications from young men who wished to be admitted for pianoforte tuning, that it was

necessary still further to increase the accommodation. Again, the Gardner Trust responded liberally to an appeal for assistance, two more houses were added, and the tuning shop enlarged. When two adjacent properties came into the market, they were bought, making the present total area of the College grounds $16\frac{1}{2}$ acres, which are laid out with separate playgrounds and asphalt walks for the different ages and sexes, a cycle track, a small body of water for boating, flower beds, and gardens for the children. A notable feature is the large number of beautiful shade trees and flowering shrubs, but they happened to be growing in such positions that the playgrounds are left free from any obstruction.

Training College. Many of the girls obtained work as teachers in other Schools and Classes for the Blind, therefore it was desirable to give the students the endorsement of the Board of Education. In 1896 the first Queen's Scholarship Examination for the Blind was held at the Royal Normal College, and the Normal Department was recognised by the Government. The Rt. Hon. W. F. D. Smith, now a Trustee in place of his father, contributed liberally to the purchase of the house used by the senior girls, and his name was identified with the Training College Department.

Other Donors. One would be glad to mention all the friends who have assisted the College in various ways, but that is impossible. This sketch would be incomplete, however, without a reference to the loyal friendship and hearty support of the Rt. Hon. James A. Campbell, of Stracathero, Mr. Wm. Auchincloss Arrol, of Glasgow, for many years Treasurer and Secretary of the Glasgow Scholarship Committee, and Mr. John P. Coldstream, of Edinburgh; also to the generous help given by Dr. Armitage's wife, brother, and other members of his family, after his death in 1890.

Gardner Trust. If the College owes its establishment to the gifts of Dr. Armitage, the Duke of Westminster, and others, its work would have been greatly restricted but for the generous aid and continued support of the

Committee of the Gardner Trust. In 1881 Mr. Justice Fry granted £1,000 from the accumulated interest of Mr. Henry Gardner's Legacy, for temporary Scholarships. The next year the decision of the Court of Chancery was given, and the Committee of the Trust established a large number of Scholarships at the College, renewable from year to year. They also made a liberal grant towards the outfit of the new Preparatory and Technical Schools, and for the purchase of musical instruments, made necessary by the largely increased number of pupils. After the passing of the Education Act in 1893, the Scholarships for children were discontinued, and additional ones were granted to those over sixteen, thus enabling many poor boys and girls to continue their education after their elementary school-days were ended, and fitting them to go into the world as self-supporting men and women.

DEPARTMENTS. Long experience had proved that the Blind could only be made self-sustaining by increasing their intelligence, bodily activity and dexterity, by inculcating business habits, by arousing their self-respect, and by creating in their minds a belief in the possibility of self-maintenance. Although Music and Pianoforte Tuning were to be the principal subjects in the course of training, it was necessary to have, as a foundation, a good general education and physical development. Therefore, the College includes five Departments:—A Kindergarten and Preparatory School, a Secondary School, a Training College, a Technical School, and an Academy of Music.

Educational. The children in the Preparatory Department have separate houses and playgrounds, but they come to the main school-building for morning and evening services, school-classes, pianoforte, singing and harmony lessons, and also for all the Musical Recitals, Lectures, etc. They have classes in the Gymnasium and lessons in the Swimming Bath. This arrangement gives the children the advantages of the Cottage system and at the same time the resources of a large school. Great attention is given to hand training, for

the acquisition of manual dexterity in childhood prepares the hands and fingers for pianoforte playing and tuning. The large grounds afford a good field for Nature Study and Gardening. Swedish Sloyd was brought to the notice of the Principal by Miss E. P. Hughes, of the Cambridge Training College, and its value for the children at once recognized. The College is indebted to the late Mrs. T. R. Armitage for fitting up a shop with twelve work-benches and sets of tools.

Until the age of 16, the pupils give a large portion of their time to school work; beside the ordinary elementary branches, Literature and Science have always been included, as they awaken an interest that does not cease with the end of one's school days. In the Secondary Department a few students take a course in Languages and Advanced Mathematics, preparatory to entering one of the Universities, but the majority devote their time to Music, Tuning or Typewriting. The Museum has apparatus for teaching Physics, a skeleton for Physiology, birds and other animals for Natural History, and specimens illustrating the different steps in textile and other industries, for objective Geography. The valuable Library of Braille books, many of them the gift of Dr. Armitage, stimulates that love of reading which opens a new world to the Blind.

Musical.

The following fundamental basis was adopted for the musical training:— That the students should be given the same opportunities for instruction, practice, and hearing music, as were enjoyed by the seeing with whom they would have to compete in the open market. The College was fortunate at the outset in securing on the Staff, the services of Dr. E. J. Hopkins, of the Temple Church, and Mr. Frits Hartvigson, Pianist to her Majesty, Queen Alexandra. When old age compelled Dr. Hopkins to retire from active work, his teaching at the Royal Normal College was the last professional engagement he relinquished, and Mr. Hartvigson was on the Staff thirty-five years. Each of these professors gave a weekly Recital in the College Hall, which was attended by all the

pupils, and this custom is continued by their successors. Beside the Professors, noted artistes, as Mesdames Schumann and Menter, Dr. Hans von Bulow, Messrs. D'Albert, Guilmant, Saint Sæens and others have kindly come from London to give recitals. Mr. H. C. Banister, the first Professor of Harmony and Counterpoint, gave Lectures on Musical subjects, and to-day Mr. Stewart Macpherson's Lectures are an invaluable part of the musical training. Dr. W. H. Cummings was Professor of Singing until he resigned to take the Principalship of the Guildhall School of Music.

Beside all the regular Recitals given at the College, the pupils are constantly taken to first-class Concerts. Since the Crystal Palace Orchestra was disbanded, tickets for London Concerts are freely given by the various agents. It is largely owing to this indirect instruction that the students have taken so high a position in the profession of Music.

Physical. Mr. Guy Campbell, who was appointed Physical Director, has made himself acquainted with all the different systems of Physical Training, and his successful teaching has given that freedom of movement, activity, self-reliance and courage, which are so essential, in securing employment. The Armitage Gymnasium is fitted with fifty-five different pieces of apparatus, embracing the best points of the English, Swedish, German and American Systems. A special feature is Sargent's Developing Machines, the first introduced into any English Gymnasium. In addition to the Gymnasium, there is a Swimming Bath, a Rink for roller-skating, and a Cycle Track of three laps to the mile.

Pianoforte Tuning. For thirty-five years Mr. John Young, formerly of J. Broadwood & Sons, has been in charge of the Tuning Department. A high standard of excellence was required from the very first, as it is well-known that one inefficient blind tuner can spoil the market for many who come after. The case is well stated by Mr. George Rose, late Managing Director of J. Broadwood & Sons. "In Pianoforte Tuning, we have one of the few things which those bereft

of sight can successfully follow as a livelihood, and it behoves us to guard it carefully. There is, however, a very real danger that blind tuners as a class may become discredited by the work of incompetent persons who have been imperfectly or partially trained. This is the age of the specialist, and in every calling efficiency is essential to success. It is useless to call a blind lad a tuner unless his work is excellent. They must be so equipped that the public may employ them with the confidence that they will not only do their tuning well, but that they will do no harm to the most valuable instrument." It is easy to teach a blind lad to turn a tuning hammer, or recognise the pitch of a note, but to bring him up to the standard requisite for success, requires long, constant, and careful supervision. An important part of the training, is the acquisition of that manual dexterity and mechanical knowledge which will enable him to undertake tuner's repairs. After several years instruction in the tuning shop, the pupils gain experience by working at piano factories in London. Before beginning work for himself, each tuner is required to pass an examination and obtain a Certificate of proficiency from an expert authority on piano tuning. Mr. A. J. Hipkins, of Messrs. Broadwood & Sons, was the College examiner for many years. Our indebtedness to this firm is manifold, for gifts of pianos and models, for the loan of a concert grand in the College Hall, for sending pianos whenever the College Choir give concerts in the London area, and for being the first to give our apprentices practice in their factory and ware-rooms ; to-day they employ permanently four of our tuners. The Department is supplied with models of different actions and other parts of a piano, which are renewed as new methods of construction are introduced by piano makers.

Typewriting. When the Principal was in America in 1875, typewriters were just coming into general use in that country ; he at once realized that the machine would be of great use in the higher education of the Blind, and in the Report for that year, expresses the belief that it will furnish remunerative employment for blind girls. At first, typewriting was taught only to those pupils whose circumstances offered a

prospect of their entering the office of some relative, but subsequently it was made a class subject, as it was found useful to the senior students for notes of lessons, compositions, and other work. It was not till a system of shorthand, and a machine for writing it was brought out, that typewriting for the Blind became practical as a means of employment. The Department is under the direction of Mr. H. D. Black, who has added an advanced course to the curriculum, which includes tabulating, duplicating and other copying, specifications, and a knowledge of the routine requirements of a commercial house. With typewriting, as with tuning, a high standard must be maintained. Confidence among employers is hard to win, and one inefficient worker may do incalculable harm by creating a prejudice against blind typists.

In all Schools and Institutions there is a danger of falling into ruts, but the Principal and Staff of the College have been eager to avoid that danger, ready to examine new methods of teaching, and prompt to adopt those that proved worthy of acceptance.

CONCERTS, Etc. In order to convince the public of their merits
LONDON, as musicians, it was necessary for the students
 to appear on the Concert platform and perform
 important works by the great composers. Five years after the
 College was opened the pupils gave their first Concert in
 St. James' Hall, London. The Crystal Palace Orchestra was
 engaged, and Sir August Manns conducted. At this Concert,
 Wagner's "Walkuren-ritt" was performed by the Orchestra for
 the first time in London. That the desired object was accom-
 plished is shown by the following criticisms :—" Concerts given
 expressly in aid of deserving charitable Institutions do not, as a
 rule, call for lengthy notices from a purely artistic point of view.
 It is evident, however, that Mr. F. J. Campbell, the Principal of
 the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind,
 entertains a different idea as to what is expedient even in circum-
 stances of this nature. Summing up the Concert, we have no
 hesitation in stating it to be one of the best of the season."

Still more satisfactory was the criticism in the *London Times*

after the Concert in 1884, when Professor Klindworth came from Berlin to conduct:—"It was a somewhat bold step on Dr. Campbell's part to bring his pupils to St. James's Hall, the centre of musical life in London, and there place them in competition with the pupils of the Royal Academy and others not labouring under the same physical disadvantages. The success of the experiment is its best justification. The young artists who were heard last night would, we feel sure, be the last to put in a plea *ad misericordiam* for their performances. They desire and can afford to be judged on the intrinsic merit of their performances."

In after years many Orchestral Concerts were given at the Crystal Palace, Guildhall, St. James's, Queen's, and Albert Halls. In addition to the conductors already mentioned, Dr. Hans von Bulow, Sir Hubert Parry, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Sir Charles Stanford, and Dr. W. H. Cummings, kindly conducted. On one occasion at the Albert Hall, the students from the Royal Academy, Royal College, and Guildhall School of Music, joined the College Choir. At the last Concert given in the Albert Hall, their Majesties, King Edward and Queen Alexandra, were present, accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Victoria, and the Landgraf of Hesse.

The works, with orchestral accompaniment performed at these Concerts, included:—

VOCAL.

Choral Fantasia	<i>Beethoven</i>	Hear my Prayer	<i>Mendelssohn</i>
Woman of Samaria.....	<i>Sterndale Bennett</i>	Hymn of Praise	<i>Mendelssohn</i>
Spring's Message.....	<i>Gade</i>	Blest Pair of Sirens	<i>Parry</i>
Spring Fantasia	<i>Gade</i>	Toggenburg	<i>Rheinberger</i>
Kloster Porte	<i>Grieg</i>	Daughter of Jairus	<i>Stainer</i>
Chorus of Reapers	<i>Liszt</i>	The Revenge	<i>Stanford</i>

INSTRUMENTAL PIANO.

Capriccio Brillante	<i>Mendelssohn</i>	Concerto	<i>Bach</i>
Hungarian Rhapsody	<i>Liszt</i>	„	<i>Beethoven</i>
Suite	<i>Raff</i>	„	<i>Liszt</i>
Concertstück	<i>Weber</i>	„	<i>Mendelssohn</i>
		„	<i>Schumann</i>

VIOLIN.

ORGAN.

Concerto	<i>Mendelssohn</i>	Concerto	<i>Prout</i>
		Symphony for Organ and	
		Orchestra	<i>Guilmant</i>

Berlin. Through the kind help of Colonel and Mrs. Richardson-Gardner, a Concert party visited Brussels and Berlin. Herr Lessmann, Editor of the leading Musical Journal in Berlin, thus speaks of the Concert:—"The performance was astonishing, especially the part-singing, on account of the depth of tone, the pureness of intonation and care of pronounciation, things often neglected by our own choral societies. Those who bring the benefit of artistic elevation and education to these their less fortunate fellow creatures, deserve the highest praise and the most earnest recognition. The piano performances were also worthy of high praise; besides real technical neatness of execution, they showed true musical appreciation and perfect comprehension of what was played; the beauty of the touch left nothing to be desired. But that which was of equal value to the solo performers, if it did not even surpass them in a higher degree, was the accompaniment of the solo singing by both a lady and gentleman."

Again in 1885 the Philharmonic Orchestra was engaged, Professor Karl Klindworth conducted, and a Concert was given in Berlin with Mr. Alfred Hollins and Mr. Stuart Moncur as Soloists.

America. A guarantee fund was raised, to which the Rt. Hon. Jas. A. Campbell, Mr. John Cook, and Dr. F. J. Campbell were the principal contributors, and four of the pupils took part in Concerts in New York, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington. It required hard work and great energy to plan and carry out all these Concerts, but the result was to awaken a new interest in the musical education of the Blind throughout the world.

Operetta. After several essays in stage performances, it was decided to give Mendelssohn's Operetta, "The Son and Stranger." There was a difficulty in regard to the part of the lover, and Dr. Cummings immediately offered to fill the rôle of Hermann. He gave up business engagements to accompany the pupils to Glasgow, where the Operetta was performed in St. Andrew's Hall. As a result of the seven

performances of "The Son and Stranger," enough money was raised to print the Cathedral Psalter, pointed for chanting, in Braille.

Gymnastic and Swimming Displays. An illustration of the capabilities of blind people as noteworthy in its way as the Concerts, were the Gymnastic Demonstrations and Swimming Displays: in London at the Albert Hall, the old St. James's Hall, the Agricultural Hall, the Crystal Palace, Queen's Hall, etc. ; in the Provinces, at Glasgow, Birmingham, Derby and Brighton, the journey to the last three towns having been made by the gymnasts on multi-cycles. Demonstrations of ability to save life from drowning by the different methods in use by the Royal Life Saving Society have been given at the Galas of different important Swimming Clubs, in and around London. The object has been to show that a blind person, thoroughly trained physically, can overcome to a great extent, the handicap of blindness.

In addition to the Concerts, there are many notable events one would like to record, but the limit allotted to this article is already exceeded, and only a few will be mentioned.

Visits to Windsor Castle. Two years after the College was opened, the pupils had the honour of giving a Concert at Windsor Castle before her late Majesty, Queen Victoria. Previous to this visit, her Secretary was directed to ascertain what she could do that would give the pupils the most pleasure. Upon learning that hearing was to them what vision was to their more fortunate brothers and sisters, the Queen, at the close of the Concert, expressed to those present her pleasure in what she had heard, and her warm interest in the success of the College. Her Majesty then shook hands with all the little girls in the front row. In 1882, a second visit was paid to Windsor, and at that Concert the programme included Schumann's Concerto played by Master Alfred Hollins, and Mendelssohn's "Hear my Prayer," sung by Miss Amelia Campbell and the Choir. A chant, written by one of the College Professors during the Concert, was transcribed

into Braille by the Choir and immediately sung. This "singing at sight" by blind people greatly interested her Majesty, and she asked for the embossed copies of the music.

Festivals at H.R.H. Princess Louise, accompanied by His the College. Grace the Duke of Argyll, opened the main College building upon its completion in 1876.

The Prize Festival of 1879 was memorable for the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales, when Bishop Barry delivered an able address on the Education of the Blind, of which the following is an extract:—

"I am privileged to speak in the name of the Council, not as having earned that privilege by any special devotion to the service of the College, but simply as being able to regard its work by the light of some educational experience.

This College, while it thankfully accepts, while it gladly relies on, natural and powerful sympathy, yet ventures to appeal largely, perhaps mainly, to other considerations, of public spirit, public duty, public interest.

Its whole conception (in which it stands out with a certain distinctiveness of character) is to regard the Blind, as not a burden, but an integral element of the whole community—a class under deprivation and disadvantage indeed, and therefore having some special claim for sympathy and aid—but yet a class which, having received that aid, is capable of self-dependence, capable of claiming its place in the education and work of the English nation, capable in degree of performing duties to society and bearing some share of the burdens laid upon it. It is in order so to open the prison gates of blindness, that they, who might otherwise be helpless dependents on charity and hopeless burdens on society, may go out into the atmosphere of work, of freedom, of independence, that it asks the thoughtful, as well as the kindly, consideration of the English people.

If we are to realize the hope, which has been nobly expressed, that the ladder of education shall be set up between the lowest and highest grades of society, and that no one who has once set his foot on it shall be prevented from climbing as

high as he has strength and nerve to climb, it is just this aid which is needed, and which is being gradually supplied. For those who see, it is enjoyed already: from lower to higher schools, from higher schools to colleges, they can rise by this aid. What this College asks is, that this same aid shall be given to the Blind, who need it even more."

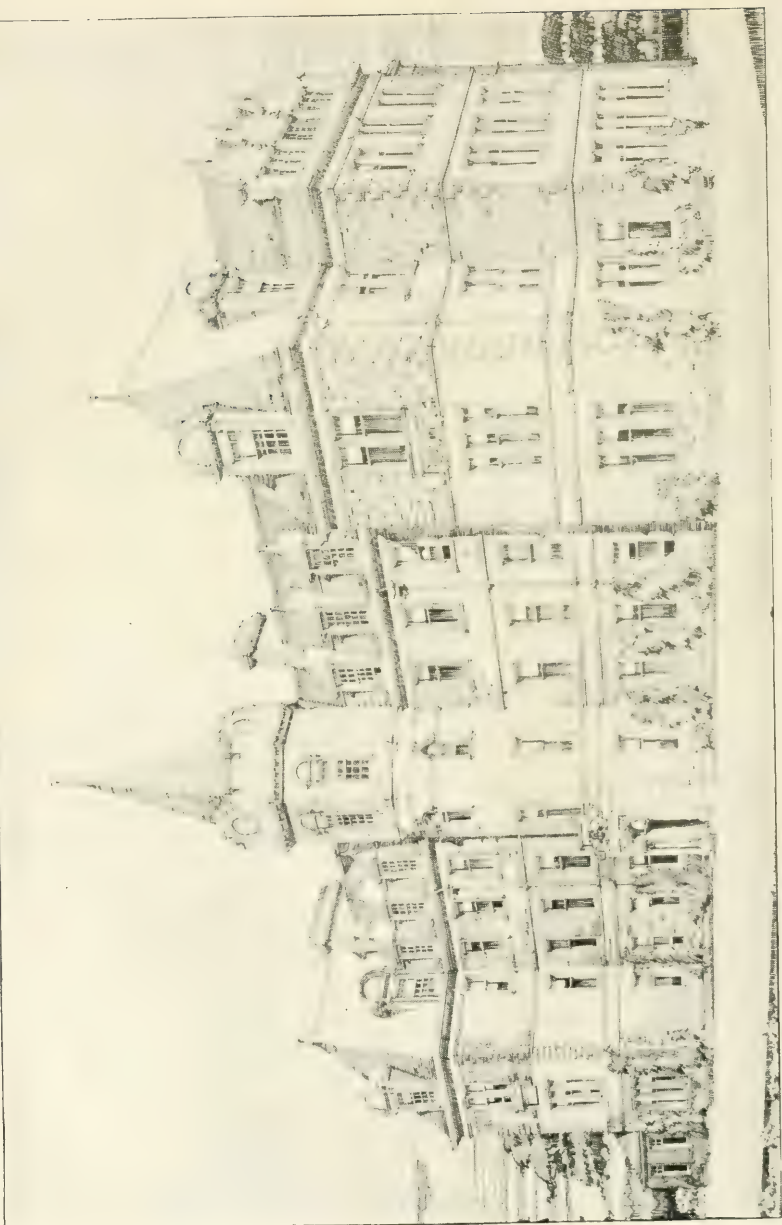
One of the most pleasant occasions was the Christmas Festival at which the late Duchess of Teck was present, accompanied by Queen Mary, then a little girl of twelve, and her brother. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught on two occasions attended the Prize Festival; at other Festivals we had the pleasure of welcoming the late Empress of Germany, Princess Beatrice, and the Duchess of Albany.

The Rt. Hon. John Bright was present in 1883, and delivered an eloquent address; he was most ready in having an appropriate word for each winner of a prize. Among the many visits of Professor and Mrs. Fawcett was one a short time before his death, when Mrs. Richardson-Gardner presented the prizes.

Memorial to After the death of Dr. Armitage, a turret clock
Dr. T. R. with chimes was placed on the main building
Armitage. by the pupils, staff, Executive Committee, and
 other friends of the College. The clock was
 opened by Lady Mary Grosvenor, daughter of the late Duke of
 Westminster, and an address was delivered by Bishop Phillips
 Brooks. On the hour-bell are embossed these words, "In
 memory of Thos. Rhodes Armitage, Esqre., M.D., faithful friend
 and wise benefactor of the Blind, whose loving service turned
 darkness into light." It is fitting to close this sketch with his
 words:—

"The circumstances which led to the foundation of the College could scarcely be said to be fortuitous, even by the greatest sceptic. We have been links in a great chain of events, which have been gradually shaped for us. Let us be filled with gratitude to God that so good a work has been done, and let us remember that the work is everything, the agents nothing."

S. E. CAMPBELL.



" WEST CRAIGMILLAR EDINBURGH."

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 62.

APRIL 21ST, 1913.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. Just on going to press we hear with deep regret of the death on March 31st of Miss Hornby, so well-known in Liverpool for her liberal and charitable gifts. She went out as a nurse to the Franco-German war, and on her return devoted her life and money to philanthropic objects. She gave £10,000 to the School for the Blind at Wavertree, and employed many of the Blind in copying books into Braille which she bought and presented to various libraries. To Liverpool she has given a library of over 1,000 vols. in Braille. She also founded eight pensions of £12 each for the Blind of Liverpool.

She was a good linguist, speaking six or seven languages. In one of the poorest parts of Liverpool, she purchased two houses, and there received the waifs and strays, brought them up and then sent them to comfortable homes in Canada. Her loss will be keenly felt in Liverpool.

2. The late Mr. Charles H. Scott, J.P., left £3,000 upon trust for the Mary Ann Scott Memorial Homes and Workshops for the Blind, founded by him in memory of his wife, for investment by the governors of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, who are to apply the income in the provision of a social party for the

inmates on November 21st in each year, being the anniversary of his wife's birthday.

3. The late Alderman W. B. Roper, J.P., has left a sum of £5,000 to the Homes for the Blind, Fulwood, Preston—£2,000 for the erection of a boarding-house, and £3,000 to be invested, the interest to go towards the endowment of such boarding-house.

4. We regret to announce the death of Mr. William J. Colman, on January 25th, at the age of 62, after a short illness. For forty years he had been one of the Home Teachers for the Bristol Institution for the Blind, and was himself totally blind since boyhood.

He was a member of the Society of Friends, and at his funeral at the Friends Meeting House, a large number attended to pay him the last tribute of respect.

5. Mr. John Hunter, of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, passed the examination, in January last, for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists. Mr. Hunter is now Organist of Newburg Parish Church.

6. The Rev. T. Barnard, M.A., was instituted to the Rectory of Roborough, North Devon, on April 5th.

7. Mr. Cecil Jewell has passed the Intermediate Examination of the Incorporated Law Society.

8. Mr. R. V. Bainton has passed the Intermediate Examination at Durham and intends to read for honours in Classics.

9. Mr. Herbert Lewis, B.A., has taken the diploma of F.R.C.O.

10. Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S. has received a grant of £500 from the Clothworkers' Company for the Embossed Scientific Books Fund.

11. Mr. Walter Littlewood has resigned his post as Superintendent of the Liverpool Schools for the Blind (Hardman Street and Wavertree), and has gone to California. His place has been filled by Mr. S. E. Stevens, from Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, and in his room, Mr. Stewart Illingworth, who was at the School for the Blind, Gorleston-on-Sea, has been appointed Master of the Mary Ann Scott Memorial Home, Henshaw's Blind Asylum.

12. Mr. H. J. Wilson read a paper on "The Education and Employment of the Blind" before the Royal Society of Arts on February 26th, and on February 20th gave an address at the annual meeting of the Oxford Society for the Blind.

13. We are pleased to hear from Mr. Lattey, Hon. Sec. of the Bournemouth and District Blind Aid Society, that in consequence of the Society's Annual Report and the Resolution passed at the Annual Meeting, held on December 3rd, the Bournemouth Council decided at their Meeting, held on January 7th, to make ophthalmia neonatorum a compulsorily notifiable disease.

14. The annual report for 1912 of the Reading Blind Aid Society is very satisfactory, and shows the care bestowed on the Blind in Reading by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Hugh E. Walford. Since the issue of the report, a gift of £200 India 3% Stock has been made to the Endowment Fund, which is now more than £3,000.

15. The International Conference on matters relating to the Blind will be held next year in London, from June 18th to 24th, both days inclusive. A meeting of the Organizing Committee was held on January 25th, when many important arrangements were made, and subjects for papers and readers of same were discussed.

16. Copies in Moon type of "A Short Life of Henry Fawcett, the Blind Postmaster-General of England, for all children everywhere," by Miss Winifred Holt, can be obtained price 1/-, post free, from the Moon Society, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton.

17. We repeat the following important announcement:—

All persons interested in the College have long realized the fact that there are teachers of standing, experience, and value who cannot be expected to sit for the College Certificate, but who should, nevertheless, be recognized by the College as fully qualified to teach the Blind.

The matter has had the careful consideration of the Committee and of the Board of Fellows, with the result that the Council have decided that all teachers who have had a continuous service of 15 years, expiring 31st December, 1912, in any Certified School for the Blind in Great Britain shall, subject to the approval of the Board of Education in each case, be granted a recognition of Status.

Applications for recognition must reach the Honorary Registrar not later than 24th June.

This form of recognition will not be repeated, but all teachers will, in future, be expected to take the College Certificate by examination.

18. We regret that through want of space we are compelled to exclude several matters, including an account of the new Association of Teachers of the Blind, but full information concerning it is given in the Association's monthly, *The Teacher of the Blind*. This number is already a record one with 48 pages and a frontispiece.

THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. The annual general meeting was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on March 1st, when there was a good attendance.

Mr. H. J. Wilson presided, and called on Mr. Frost, of Messrs. Ranger, Burton and Frost, to explain the advantages of incorporation.

Mr. Frost said "the Union was formally incorporated on the 3rd December last, with a Memorandum and Articles of Association, which give the fullest details of its legal constitution.

The real meaning and significance of this incorporation is that it gives to the Union a more definite and permanent legal standing. Before incorporation, you were an aggregation of individuals combining for a common cause. By the incorporation you have been welded, as it were, into one legal entity, having powers and functions and responsibilities which are accurately defined by law.

The objects of the Union are, of course, unchanged.

Your legal liability, as members, is very slight, and merely amounts to this, that if the worst came to the worst and the Union could not continue any longer, and there were debts outstanding, each of you would be liable for an amount not exceeding £1 each—possibly less, but certainly not more.

The Union is not the sort of thing that can involve you in membership—even with this very slight liability—without your knowing it, for any person who is qualified to become a member has to make and sign an application in writing, and then has to be elected by the Executive Council—his or her election being dependent of course upon the facts and merits of each particular case.

Then, again, there is a perfectly simple and easy method of ceasing your membership, for a resignation is all that is necessary if, for any reason, a member desires to sever his or her connection with the Union.

The holding of General Meetings, and the questions of voting, and so on, are also carefully dealt with by the Articles of Association.

The control of the Union is very largely in the hands of the Executive Council, but every year one-third of the Executive Council members have to retire and submit themselves for re-election by the members at large. This gives to the Executive,

power of definite and prompt action, when required, and yet, in a sense, compels the governing body to meet their constituents, as it were, once a year and render an account of their stewardship—a form of government which, in these moving and democratic times, seems to be as good and workable as can be devised.

As to the motives for this legal reconstruction, it was felt very strongly that a work of the nature of yours was essentially a public work, and merited—indeed, demanded—a corresponding *habitat*. It was not thought fitting that a work that was being built up at such a great cost of personal effort and sacrifice should be allowed to rest upon any foundation that was not strong and well-defined and capable of the clearest ascertainment. In other words, it was felt that a proper permanent legal incorporation was the foundation to which the nature of your work justly entitled it.

This transformation, however, had to be conducted with care and judgment. We are most of us familiar with the case of some favourite building to which we have resorted for many years, and which, in spite of its old-fashioned character—possibly even its shakiness—has established itself in our affections, and which, upon a subsequent visit, we have found to be superseded by a great strong modern building which, we are told, is more up-to-date and more commodious and more permanent, and so on, but which is *not the same*, and which leaves us disappointed and unsatisfied. Owing to the care and forethought which has been brought to bear upon your new constitution—mainly by your Committee and, in a lesser degree, by myself—this misfortune has been averted. All the essential features of your old building—as it were—have been carefully preserved; your objects are the same; your powers are the same; your officers are the same; and the results will be the same; but you have the added satisfaction of knowing that the results of your work cannot, at any future time, be imperilled by a poor foundation or a flimsy structure. And in addition to all this you have the great satisfaction of knowing that if, as time goes on, you find yourselves able—as I hope you may—to broaden

and increase the volume of your work, and to make a stronger appeal to a wider public, you have now a secure and admirable base from which your kindly and beneficent work can be conducted."

On the motion of Sir John Brickwood, seconded by Mr. Stuart Johnson, the best thanks of the meeting were tendered to Mr. Frost for kindly attending and giving such a clear and lucid explanation of what is meant by incorporation.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to an anonymous donor who kindly provided all the necessary funds, (less £2 2s., kindly given by a member of the Council) without which the Incorporation could not have been carried out. On the motion of Sir John Brickwood, seconded by Miss B. Taylor, Mr. H. J. Wilson was appointed Chairman for the current year, and on the motion of Mr. Lempriere, seconded by the Rev. Barton Mills, Mr. Stuart Johnson was appointed Hon. Treasurer. Mr. Guy Campbell and Dr. Ranger were elected respectively Hon. Secretary and Hon. Solicitor.

The five retiring members were unanimously re-elected on the motion of Mr. Wagg, seconded by the Rev. Barton Mills.

The Hon. Secretary read the draft annual report for 1912, and on the motion of Sir John Brickwood, seconded by Mr. Stuart Johnson, it was received and adopted with the financial statement.

A resolution was carried urging the Government to pass the Mental Deficiency Bill, as amended.

The following instructive and interesting papers were then read:—

THE CASE COMMITTEE.

By Miss HARRIS BROWNE.

I suppose that I have been chosen to speak to you to-day, because, being at the same time, a member of the Case Committee, and a District Representative, I am, or should be, able to see things from both points of view.

To speak first of the Case Committee.

I sometimes wonder, as I look round the table at our meetings, whether even the Council of this Union realises what the Committee stands for.

Mr. Wilson, Sir Francis and Lady Campbell, Miss B. Taylor, Miss Gilbert, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Guy Campbell, and, until recently, Miss Bainbrigge and Mr. Stainsby. (I am only there as a learner). It surely is no small thing that these picked men and women, whose lives are already more than full, should be willing to devote so much time and thought to this branch of the work. To keep abreast of it at all, each of the monthly meetings alone involves two or three busy hours. And this is only the beginning.

The report states that 113 new cases have been dealt with during the past year. This means that at each meeting the Secretary brings to our notice nine or ten cases that have been sent to her because, almost invariably, they are too difficult to be helped either by the District Representative, the clergy of the Parish, or by some one of the many philanthropic organisations. Cases that may be said to have slipped between those Societies, Institutions and Agencies for the Blind, for which this Union, in its corporate capacity stands.

I see here workers for the C.O.S., and the Friends of the Poor, and I ask them, How would you feel if, to the disabilities of those who come to you for help, there were always added the terrible affliction of blindness, with the helplessness and hopelessness that, more often than not, accompany it?

The Committee realises that all the ordinary avocations for the Blind are overdone, and therefore tries, as far as possible, to find new means of livelihood for the cases with which it has to deal.

We are justly proud, I think, of the tuner who has had fifteen months steady work as a "rougher up" in a piano factory; of the farm help, and of the garden and house boy, both of whom are doing well. Then we have two successful news-vendors, one of whom was too old to learn a trade, and the health of the other made an outdoor life necessary for him. This younger man is enterprising, and adds to his earnings by making string bags and dusters, and we hope will do well this coming Summer with pea nets.

A recent case was that of a shoemaker, who has made use of a small grant to set himself up in his former trade.

Another grant was applied to extending a rather original business. A blind boy is working with his mother to keep the home together by buying the cloths wrapped round margarine, and boiling them to extract the fat, the rag being afterwards sold by the hundred-weight for cleaning machinery.

I cannot resist bringing in here a case with which I dealt independently of the Committee, but on the same lines. It was that of a young woman, quite blind and living alone. She had been a Mother's Help before she lost her sight, and her former employer wrote of her in the highest terms. I learnt that Lottie's great wish was to find a baby to mind, and, after some difficulty, a baby was found. The mother was obliged to leave it all day, while she was at work in a laundry, and there are few babies so left, who are as well cared for, and as much loved as this one was. Poor as Lottie was, the 2s. per week which she received for the care of the child, counted for little in comparison with the occupation, and interest and happiness that it brought into her life. How she divined it, I cannot tell; but I shall not easily forget her beaming face as she said to me one day, "Don't 'e smile just beautiful, Lidy?"

These few instances will serve to show how varied are our interests, and the machinery we have to set in motion.

A great and ever recurring problem is what to do for the women and girls who, even when they are not in actual want, are wearing their hearts out, because their hands are idle.

It is here that the District Representatives might be of the greatest assistance. The Report says on page 16, "The best method of helping blind persons is to provide them with remunerative work. Many Blind persons practise their trades at home, and in such cases, small local committees can be formed, where necessary, to secure orders for the home workers."

The Case Committee dreams of a Central Dépôt for women's work.

The District Representatives should be helping now to insure the success of that Central Dépôt, when, from a dream, it becomes a reality, as we hope it may in the near future.

The first thing to insist upon with blind workers is that they must not ask that excuse should be made for them on account of their infirmity. Here, Miss Douglas-Hamilton in "Eyes to the Blind," and Miss Austin at the National Lending Library, have set a splendid example. They willingly devote pains and patience to teaching those who care to learn, but they absolutely refuse to accept any work that is not as near perfection as possible.

Now, without wishing to reflect in any way, on the schools, and the excellent work they do, it is an admitted fact, that the greater number of the blind women and girls seeking employment, do not at present produce marketable articles.

I recollect that an Eton boy, in his last term, once replied to my father, when asked what he had learnt at school, "Nothing, except that I think I have learnt how to learn."

Perhaps that is all we should ask of the girls while they are at school. It is for the District Representatives, then, to finish their education.

It must be remembered that the girls with whom we have to deal, have now no longer the advantage of clean, airy, classrooms, where their work is supervised by trained teachers. Instead, there is the small crowded home, and relatives too busy, even if they had the knowledge, to help the blind worker, who earns little, and is a burden on the family resources. Or, if they live alone, as the older women often do, they are dependent, for the most part, on paid assistance for their needs.

I should like to see established a regular organised system of visiting amongst these women and girls, with the object of fitting them to compete, not with others handicapped like themselves, but in the open market.

Sir William Treloar is proud of the fact, that the cripples trained in his College at Alton, have no difficulty in finding employment under ordinary conditions. Blindness is a heavier handicap than lameness, but it is not an insuperable one.

The workers have first to be taught that their work must be perfect; that it must be kept clean; that if an order is accepted, it must be made according to the requirements stated, not merely

something more or less like ; and, that it must be finished up to date. Above all, there must be a definite standard of work, just as there is a recognised standard of Braille writing.

All this supplementary teaching could well be undertaken by the District Representatives, with the aid of small local committees, all of them affiliated to an organization of which the Central Dépôt, when established, would be the link between the blind worker and her market.

And this would be a great gain, for, even within the past twelve months, several good orders have been lost to our workers, partly because it was not known to whom to apply, and partly because the Societies approached, could not undertake large orders at short notice.

To recapitulate :

My idea is that the Case Committee having found out the women and girls needing employment, the District Representatives should undertake to train and classify them, according to the nature, quality and quantity of the work they can turn out. We should thus have the nucleus of an organisation, which would eventually include all the blind women workers in the Metropolitan Area. In this way, the Central Dépôt would be able to take an order for, say one hundred pairs of stockings; knowing that A. will send five pairs by the date specified, B. ten, C. twenty, and so on.

The girls must be taught that they are members of a cooperative system, and that, if one should fail to fulfil her part, she will bring loss and discredit on all the others.

All this would, of course, require a good deal of personal service, but for that I do not think we shall ask in vain.

This is not the time or place to go into the details of such a scheme as that I have just outlined. But I think that there must be many who, like myself, feel that some definite effort must be made to help these blind women, and if we can meet and talk it over, I am very hopeful that a way may be found.

BLIND MAN'S BUFF.

By Mr. STUART JOHNSON.

It's such a jolly thing to be a boy and pretend to be all the interesting people in turn—a king with a crown, a soldier with a gun, a pirate with pistols and daggers, a clergyman preaching to rows of dolls, or a blind man with a bandage on our eyes. I don't suppose now that I shall ever again be a king, or a soldier, or a pirate, and I hope I never shall be a blind man, but it's great fun having one's eyes bandaged, being taken into the middle of a room, turned round solemnly three times, and then let loose to catch whom one can. All round there are the other children—crowds of them; one pushes, another pulls, after another, who seems near, the blind man makes a fruitless plunge. Just at that moment he hears footsteps behind him; it seems the moment to make a dash in another direction, but in doing so he almost overbalances, while the heat warns him that he is near the nursery fire. He turns and has his back to the wall and faces his persecutors. Soon, by straight steps, he comes into the middle of the room, but, as he does so, a mat left upon the floor trips him up; he falls, but picks himself up again, and is after them once more. He is getting near a corner, and there is a hush, which tells him that he has got one of his tormentors into a tight place; the boy, however, cleverly eludes his grasp, and nothing is won by the cautious attempt. He feels almost baffled now, but will have one more try. A sound of breathing seems to him to come from another direction, and with a swoop he lays strong hands upon someone, but at that moment something in the nature of a rescue is attempted from behind, and in the scrimmage the boy whom he had seized slips away from him. He begins to be tired. He feels he is not doing blind man properly. It is high time he caught someone. The last blind man soon had a capture, and it seems as if he will, if he goes on like this, be voted no good at the game; so he tries again, and this time *something really happens and the victim is secured*. He pulls his bandage off in triumph, and hot and rather dazzled as he is, it is his turn now to watch and teaze another blind man. So far we have been playing with things that are not really and

truly there, but we want to come face to face with the facts that the children pretend about. 1,284 of us stand in a large circle watching the real Blind Man's Buff. There is only one blind man in the centre, for in England there is only one to every 1,284 persons who have sight. The buffets with which he is buffeted are only too real, and the children have turned into imps, on whose foreheads are written many an evil name. Helplessness is there with dependence, want of work, incapacity, poverty, and starvation. One imp thwarts, another hinders, while others irritate, depress and discourage. Endurance becomes almost exhausted. Originally, perhaps, the affliction sprang from lack of health, and struggles have told still more. Oh for a chance to close with and master fate, and tearing off the bandage, join the throng who are not blind. But it is the real thing now, and the bandage must be worn for life. This little pamphlet is an appeal to those in full possession of their eyesight, to intervene between their brother who has to wear the bandage and the heartless host of difficulties and trials which beset him.

We must prevent blindness. Nearly one in every three blind persons need not have been blind. Nearly one in every three has had the dreadful bandage of blindness tied on in infancy, because the eyes were not properly attended to at birth. Care and cleanliness could have prevented the whole trouble then. The mothers of England, aided by the untrained nurses of days gone by, have put out the eyes of nearly one third of the Blind. It is a dreadful thought . . . Will you not help by the distribution of a few leaflets obtainable from the Metropolitan Blind Union to prevent this? I want to leave before your minds a series of pictures. My first is a sad one. The bandage that need never have been worn. The child who need never have been blind.

When we come into contact with a child upon whom blindness has come, upon whose eyes the dread bandage has been bound, a very useful step will be to obtain from the Union a leaflet called "How Parents Should Train and Treat their Blind Children." A blind child should be taught to put its clothes on and off, wash itself, and work and play as much

as possible like an ordinary child. It should be very kindly treated, but not pitied. Talk to it much, and teach it to do what a sighted child does at the same age. Never leave it alone for long; its isolation is deeper and more immediate than that of other children. Be very careful to notice its habits. Remember that it is denied many of the advantages which spring from imitation. It cannot see the way you eat and drink, the way you wear your clothes, or brush your hair, or wash. It cannot notice the bad appearance caused by dirty nails or unblackened boots. It cannot see the spots, which untidy ways of eating, drinking, writing, and smoking leave upon the clothes. You must tell it all these things, awake its imagination, and be eyes to the Blind.

Calisthenic exercises are excellent, and if possible let the child be drilled. Never say to the blind child "Don't touch," if you can possibly avoid it; let it touch and measure everything. Touching, walking, measuring, bring ideas of space and distance. Let it kick about in the open air, and thus develop liberty of action and freedom of swing, otherwise the child will grow strikingly like the temporarily blindfolded man, will feel about nervously, and knock up against everything and everybody all through life, and never learn to be blind. Aim high as to what a blind child can do. Expect it to go a message, tell it to do things you hardly think it will accomplish, give it objects in life. Do not let your kindness take the shape of doing everything for it, but let it be the real kindness that makes it do everything for itself. Try to understand the impressions that things are making upon it, and recollect that they will be different impressions from those of a sighted child. Feed its imagination through its memory, and teach it plenty of descriptive poems and stories. Think with it as well as for it, and by your sympathy make it think with you, and hence with other men and women who have no bandage on their eyes. My second picture is a bright one. A clean, strong, upright, smart, brisk little figure faces the difficulties of life. It wears the bandage, but a clean one, and neatly tied. The child goes straight ahead, hardly draws back from anything, and doesn't nervously feel the way.

When an adult is caught, and has to become blindman, great regard should be paid to the trade or occupation followed in sighted days, when considering in what direction his energies should be bent. A printer may be put to Braille printing. Clerks do well as commercial typists, while it has been suggested that skilled masons might be employed as divers in pier and harbour works. It is a good thing to try and set blind persons up in some occupation for which they have a fancy, though it may be one not usually pursued by others who are blind. In such ways are useful discoveries made of fresh fields of suitable work. Especially in the country, blind people, and particularly that large number whose bandage is but loosely tied, and who can peep a little from beneath it, will specialise in out of the way things. One will take to bee-hive making. Another will adopt the kindred manufacture of straw kneelers. Another will work in the garden, or run a poultry farm, or make a sweet shop or a grocery business pay. Wire-work has kept a blind person before now, and there seems no reason why the soldering and rivetting of cooking utensils in tin should not be undertaken. A really sound knowledge of a foreign language may support a blind person as teacher. The bandage is very becoming to a lecturer, for extempore preachers have always commanded a higher repute than those whose sermons are written. Disraeli once said that a deaf member of the House of Commons did not realise his natural advantage. While the Blind share the common lot of those who listen and are bored, they on the other hand gain as lecturers; they cannot see obvious signs of boredom among an audience as we can, nor notice the attempts so civilly made to suppress yawns. I think that the rougher forms of carpentering are not sufficiently exploited by the Blind. There are isolated instances in which really finished work is done, but many could make such things as rough packing cases; these can be nailed together by hand, and the planks required cut up by hand-saw. Picture cord is made by blind women, and there is no reason why it should not be a home industry. Fish bag making is extensively pursued at one of the London workshops for the Blind. It is done by roughly stitching together a kind of

canvas that has come to this country as packing for articles from the East. This is bought second-hand, and used up for these bags, which are sold to fishmongers. An enterprising blind man might secure similar canvas, which many firms would be glad to give away or sell for a trifle. The bags are easy to make. I can see no reason why the Blind should not take a hand in cigar-making. The leaves are placed and shaped together by hand, and many women, as well as men, are employed at this work in cigar factories at the East End of London. It seems to me that this trade, as well as cigarette making, might be learnt by blind women. In stick making there is what is practically the separate trade of smoothing the stick or cane, which seems eminently suitable, and a little thought might discover many other outlets.

One or two points in conclusion. It is a very helpful thing to attach blind girls to the G.F.S. or Y.W.C.A., and men to Y.M.C.A. or C.E.M.S. These Associations tend to surround them with good and helpful friends. Another suggestion. Many people who live in a small freehold house have no special person to whom they desire to leave their house by will. A small house of this kind would be an enormous boon if left as a Home for the Blind.

There is only one class of blind person I would ask you not to help, and that is the beggar. Cases have been known of beggars whose blindness, though curable by operation, was looked upon as an asset, like the affliction of the poor girl in the Bible, who, by means of it, brought great gain to her masters.

Please recollect that when you help the beggar you are in effect telling hundreds of self reliant blind persons to give up their struggle for independence and join their degraded brethren. Sternly repress your pity, in spite of the most charming of dogs, which very likely accompanies the beggar, and helps to work upon your feelings. It is by such sternness, as much as by kindly help to the deserving, that few blind beggars are to be found in the streets of Bradford, and none in the streets of Reading. I hope I have not wearied you. It is a matter which should touch us all, for it *may* come to be *our* turn to be blind

man. There are spiteful imps ready to catch each one of us. A little cloud of germ-laden dust, a speck of hot cinder, a mere drop of some burning liquid, a blow, a stone, a week or two of overwork, a sudden shock, an illness no more serious perhaps than a cold caught in a draught, some trifling inherited defect, some weakness of the nerve, and the tender jelly clouds never to clear again. Thus at any moment our turn may come to put on the bandage ; meanwhile, in gratitude for respite or escape, let us do something for those who wear it now.

Midland Counties Union. An important meeting was held in the Shirehall, Worcester, on February 7th, to consider the steps to be taken to further the cause of the Blind in the County and City of Worcester, and especially of those after school age, who have been educated in Institutions for the Blind. The chair was taken by Mr. Willis Bund, Chairman of the Worcestershire Education Committee, who, in his remarks, stated that 21 out of the 28 Sanitary Authorities in the County had made Ophthalmia Neonatorum a notifiable disease. Miss Edith Wright, the Organizing Secretary, submitted a very complete report, full of interesting information about the Blind in the county. The adoption of the report was moved by Mr. Burrows, Chairman of the Midland Union, and carried, and after addresses had been given by Mr. Stainsby and by Mr. Siddall, Mr. Registrar Lowe moved the following practical resolution : " That it is necessary to make better provision for the blind persons in the county by securing periodical visits to persons, so as to ensure proper care for those who are likely to be benefited, and by providing suitable employment after the period of training in schools and institutions." Mr. A. W. Priestley seconded the resolution, but advised that it should be altered in its terms so as to suggest the provision of suitable employment for blind persons rather than for those who had been trained in schools. Mr. Bund suggested that the resolution should apply to the city as well as the county, and in this amended form it was carried.

A committee was then formed for the county and city.

North West Union. The annual meeting was held at Oswestry on March 5th, Mrs. Venables, of Oakhurst, kindly lending her drawing-room for the purpose. The meeting was well attended. Mr. A. Siddall, of Rochdale, gave a very interesting and instructive address which has already stirred up much interest in the neighbourhood. The work of this Union has considerably increased during the past year, especially in Shropshire.

Western Counties Union. A meeting of the Committee of this Union was held at the West of England Institution for the Blind, Exeter, on March 7th, when there were present—Mr. F. Richardson Cross (Bristol), Chairman, Mrs. Vere Stead (Organizing Secretary), Miss Buckingham (N. Devon), Sir St. Vincent Hammick, Bart. (S. Devon), Rev. E. G. Cocks (Devonport), Rev. R. Jenkins (Exeter), and Rev. S. F. Harris (Hon. Secretary). Apologies were announced from Miss Beaven (Bath), Miss Brockwell (Bristol), Captain Metcalfe (Somerset), Messrs. Banks (Salisbury), and Barrett (Bristol).

The minutes of the last Committee Meeting and also of the Organizing Secretary Selection Sub-Committee were read and approved.

Mr. Pinn, Superintendent of the Exeter Institution, was invited to join the Committee.

A detailed report of work done was given by the Organizing Secretary, special features being the commencement of new operations in Wilts and Dorset.

Arrangements were made for bringing to the notice of the Local Authorities the importance of making Ophthalmia Neonatorum a notifiable disease.

It was resolved that a letter should be sent to each of the Institutions pointing out the advantages of a Ticket Bureau.

DUNDEE'S BLIND CITIZENS.

The following article was written by Mr. COLIN MACDONALD, Manager, Dundee Institution for the Blind, for the handbook which was prepared for the use of the Members of the British Association when they met last September in Dundee.

“Surely we, the Blind, are not the least care of God.” So wrote Milton more than two hundred years ago, when, “Fallen

on evil days, and evil tongues in darkness and with dangers compassed round," he was trying to find a solace for his affliction in the composition of his immortal epic.

At the present day the care of the Blind is organised and systematised in a variety of forms—Social, Educational, and Industrial—and the admittedly heavy handicap under which our sightless brethren suffer is, to some extent, mitigated by the efforts made to ameliorate their condition. No class of the community evokes so much sympathy and consideration as the Blind. The "blessed trinity of sound, colour and form," which ministers so much happiness in general, is only enjoyed in its first element by them. But they, like the old blind bard cited, have their "days of darkness" brightened by the conversations and intercourse of friends, the pleasures of literature and music, and in the industrial and other pursuits now open to them.

It is computed that there are about three hundred blind persons in Dundee. Of these the larger portion are aged, infirm and poor, and are cared for by the Outdoor Mission for the Blind, and receive aid from some of the numerous City Funds and Mortifications available. A considerable number who have attained the required age are in receipt of the Old Age Pension, whilst a good many aged Blind, having no relatives or friends to take charge of them, find a home in the Poor House. The centre of the activities of the blind, however, is the Institution for the Blind at Magdalen Green, where seventy-five persons (including several who are deaf as well as blind) are employed. There the mechanical faculty is trained and developed in a variety of useful trades, and artisans are produced, who, in some cases, are able to earn sufficient to support themselves and families.

The principal industries engaged in are Wicker Work of all descriptions—including Mill and Factory Baskets, Brushes of all kinds, Mats and Mattings, Ship Fenders, Firewood, Firelighter making and Upholstery work. The Bedding Factory employs a large number of men and women, both in the manufacturing and purifying departments. The extent of the industrial opera-

tions may be inferred from the annual turnover, which is almost £10,000, whilst the earnings and allowances made to the workers last year totalled £2,276 13s. 4d., the weekly payments to workers varying in the different departments, as shown in the latest Report of the Institution, being as follows :—

Basket Makers	...	...	from 15/- to 23/-
Brush Makers	...	...	„ 14/6 „ 19/-
Mattress Makers and Upholsterers	„	16/6	„ 20/-
Mat Makers	...	...	„ 16/6 „ 18/-
Unskilled Department	„	11/-	„ 20/-
Firelighter Makers	...	...	„ 14/6 „ 18/-
Women Workers	...	...	„ 8/6 „ 10/6

In several individual cases expert workmen earn considerably higher wages than the figures given. A high degree of manual dexterity is attained by many of the Blind in the skilled departments, and their products bear favourable comparison with those of sighted tradesmen in the same industries.

Six at least of the Dundee Blind are engaged in the musical profession as Organists, Pianists, Tuners and Teachers of Music. The achievements of several of these under their serious physical handicap equal those of many sighted artistes. A former pupil of the School is one of the leading choir trainers in the city, and has for years conducted the “Dundee Select Choir,” who, under his baton, have rendered such works as “The Messiah,” “The Creation,” “Samson,” to delighted Dundee audiences. Several others are specially gifted in this profession, one of them being leader of an Orchestra, and himself proficient equally on the Organ, Piano and Violin. A good many others, evidently influenced by the decision of the late Professor Fawcett, that his “affliction would make no difference in his career,” pursue various callings in commerce on their own account, and display enterprise and courage which have earned for them well-merited success.

An important branch of the Institution’s work is the education of blind children under sixteen years of age. The curriculum comprises English in all its branches, including type-writing, kindergarten work, and technical instruction in handi-

crafts; Music, including the Organ and Pianoforte, is also taught; whilst there is a well-appointed gymnasium for physical training. The Library attached to the school embraces many classical works in Braille, and the pupils have, in addition, access to the Braille Books in the Public Library.

The School, which is conducted under the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf) Act, 1891, embraces all the most scientific and approved methods of instruction, and its efficiency is annually attested by H.M. Inspector. Blind children coming from country districts are provided for in the commodious boarding-house in the Institution grounds. The number of pupils under instruction at present is only sixteen. There have been as many as twenty-four, and the gratifying diminution is no doubt in large measure due to the operation of the Dundee Eye Institution, which, treating diseases of the eye at the incipient stages, in many cases prevent what, without such attention, would ultimately issue in blindness.

Many of the Blind take an intelligent interest in municipal and educational affairs in the city, and these and other matters are keenly discussed in the various workshops.

The Reading and Recreation Club in connection with the Institution is a centre of much intellectual stimulus. Lectures and Readings in History, Science and current Literature are given, and the members receive much enjoyment from a variety of games specially adapted for them.

It may be stated that the Industrial and Educational operations of the Institution are confined chiefly to Forfarshire, Perthshire and the North-East of Fifeshire.

Dundee is fortunate in respect that all the Blind in the community and surrounding districts capable of being industrially trained, or of receiving education, are provided for in the Institution at Magdalen Green.

There are still a few who try to earn a livelihood by singing and scripture reading on the street, and vending wares of various kinds from house to house, preferring such a life to the restraint and discipline of the Institution, but fortunately their number has been diminishing within recent years.

From the foregoing brief statement may be inferred the present position of the Blind in the community. As a class they share largely in the general esteem and sympathy, and their cause has evoked the generous support of many benevolent citizens.

All over the country at the present time, public interest is being aroused on behalf of the Blind, and it is anticipated that their claims and needs are soon to receive special recognition.

An effort is being made to induce the Government to make adequate provision for the training, employment and maintenance of all the capable adult Blind in the country. Under the provisions of the Invalidity and Insurance Bill probably the blind workers in Institutions, and the large body of the Blind outside their scope, may to some extent, be benefited.

It is generally felt that State recognition to supplement voluntary effort is indispensable to raising the status of the industrious Blind to the platform of honourable and independent subsistence, and it is hoped that, as the result of the present movement, a measure will be passed giving substantial benefits to the class, and thus help them

“To break their birth’s invidious bar,
And grasp the skirts of happy chance,
And breast the blows of circumstance,
And grapple with their evil star.”

THE ROYAL BLIND ASYLUM AND SCHOOL, EDINBURGH.

Patron—

HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, KING GEORGE V.

Patronesses—

HER GRACIOUS MAJESTY, QUEEN MARY, HER MAJESTY, QUEEN
ALEXANDRA, H.R.H. PRINCESS LOUISE, DUCHESS OF ARGYLL.

To find the beginnings of this ancient Institution one has to go back to the year 1793. That was a time of much philanthropic effort and benevolence, and foremost in good works in Edinburgh and Leith was the Rev. David Johnston, D.D., Minister

of the Parish Church of North Leith. Many of the charitable societies still existing in Edinburgh had their origin in his day, and with most he was associated. Human suffering always attracted his sympathy, and he could never view it without attempting to relieve it. It was this quality that impelled him to form a society to assist the Blind, and on the 30th of July of the year mentioned, "The Society for the Relief of the Indigent Blind" was founded. On this society he spent a great deal of time and money of his own, besides raising by personal influence almost all the further contributions that were needed. Some of his methods were decidedly novel. He published a volume of his sermons and personally canvassed their sale, the proceeds being for the benefit of the society. In this way he raised £300. Sometimes on delivering a volume he would turn to the purchaser after he had received payment and say, "Now, I know you will never read a word of this book, so I may as well take it away with me," and take it away he did.

Again, when the objection was made by people that they already had so many books that they would not be able to read the sermons, he would retort, "I don't care whether you read them or not, I only want you to *buy* them." On one occasion a sermon was to be preached at St. Andrew's Church in aid of the funds of the society, and Dr. Johnston was very anxious to have as many blind people present as possible. How to get them through the crowded streets was a difficulty, but this was surmounted in the following manner. He procured a rope, made them all lay hold of it at proper distances, took hold of one end himself and led them through the streets. This rope was for long preserved at the Royal Blind Asylum as a curiosity. Inspired by such enthusiasm the society was bound to grow and prosper; and we find it, after an existence of less than two months, opening workshops under the name of "The Asylum for the Industrious Blind." In 1806 premises were acquired in Nicolson Street where the present showrooms and workshops now stand. In 1824 the "pious founder" died. For thirty years he had acted as Secretary, and it is recorded that during that long period he visited the Asylum every week-day with the exception of Satur-

day, which he religiously dedicated to the preparation of his Sunday's sermons. His funeral was attended by all the inmates of the Blind Asylum who lined, on each side, the short way from the Manse to the grave.

In 1825, almost within a stone's throw of the workshops, a home for blind women was opened. There was accommodation for twenty-five women, and though some found occupation in the neighbouring Asylum, most of them were employed in the home itself in various branches of knitting and sewing. The situation was not by any means ideal, as there were no grounds attached, and the surrounding streets were amongst the busiest of the town. For fifty years it served its purpose, and when at last a really suitable home was provided the building became a boarding house for the apprentice boys and younger men employed in the workshops. This, too, was afterwards given up, but the building remains the property of the Institution to this day.

So far the work done for the Blind had been confined to adults. Employment had been the chief thought. The question of educating blind children was first taken up by Mr. James Gall, an Edinburgh publisher and printer, who, for a number of years, had been devoting much time and ingenuity to the devising of a suitable type by means of which the Blind could read. The story of Gall's type and the books he embossed are well known. He did a most useful work, although his system has not survived, for his efforts helped on materially the cause of education. The first school for blind children was opened in 1833, in a house in the South Bridge, not very far from the Asylum workshops and the women's home. It had, however, no connection with these establishments, and remained under separate management for forty years. To this school one blind child was admitted. The teacher was Miss Home, a blind lady, and almost all the expense was at first borne by a private lady, Miss Walker. To Mr. Gall it owed its inspiration, and it was his fostering care that caused it soon to prosper. At the end of six years the attendance was twenty-five, and it was then decided to entirely change its character from that of a day school to a

residential school. New premises had to be sought, and these were found in St. John's Street, off the historic Canongate. The school was placed in charge of a seeing schoolmaster, the services of Miss Home still being retained, and so the Staff was in those early days, as it is at the present time, made up of half of seeing and half of blind teachers.

In 1846 the school seems to have fallen into straitened circumstances, and a public meeting was held, presided over by Sir James Forrest, the Lord Provost of that day, to consider its position. Increased public support must have been forthcoming, for in the following year the school was removed to much better quarters, in a house once the property of the Earl of Mar, near Holyrood. About this time the Rev. James Millar, Chaplain at the Castle, was drawn into the work, and by his means considerable sums were raised and much general interest created. In 1851 still another "flitting" took place, this time to a house in Gayfield Square, which, some time before, had been purchased and adapted for the purpose. Here the school had its home for the next twenty-five years. In 1853 Mr. Millar, who had by this time become Honorary Secretary, was able to bring the "Edinburgh School for Blind Children" under the notice of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, who presented it with a donation of 250 guineas, the interest of which was to go towards the education of one poor child, the right of nomination being vested in the Queen. Since the act of 1890 this scholarship has been given to some student either pursuing a University course or a musical training.

Royal favours were bestowed on the Asylum in 1872. In that year the late Lord Tweeddale, the President, received the consent of Her Majesty Queen Victoria for the Asylum to bear the title of the "Royal Blind Asylum," and in the same year Her Royal Highness, the Princess Louise, then Marchioness of Lorne, became patroness. In 1876 the Queen added to her former favours by also, graciously, becoming a patroness.

In 1876 the Royal Blind Asylum and the Edinburgh School for Blind Children were amalgamated, and the women from the home in Nicolson Street and the children from Gayfield Square

were transferred to the beautiful buildings at West Craigmillar. On the 22nd of May of that year the ceremonies connected with the opening of that Institution took place and consisted of the placing of a memorial stone by the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart, assisted by the Brethren of the Craft, and the formal opening by His Grace, the Lord High Commissioner, the Earl of Galloway. The procession from the town through many of the public streets, to West Craigmillar, must have been very imposing. To quote the account given in the newspapers of the following day, "First came a detachment of the City Police three abreast, followed by the pipers of the 69th Highlanders, and then by the band of the regiment, forty in number; after these were representatives of the Institution. An Official bearing a white rod led the way, and then the boys of the Institution were ranked two deep and guided by a cord—as the Rev. Dr. Johnston was wont to lead the men to church. An Overseer with another white rod next led the way for the men of the Institution, these being three abreast, and bearing emblems of the various Trades carried on in the male Asylum, Nicolson Street. Among these were tradesmen and emblems as follows: "Basket-makers with three basket crowns, cradle, bottle basket, cage, and basket-makers' flag used in 1832; mattress-makers, with hair mattress, church cushion, bassinette mattress, palliasse; brush-makers, with hearth-brush, common broom and brushes made by boys, fancy dusters, long broom, working model, and two curtain dusters; feather bedding makers, with bed bolsters and pillows; weavers, carrying the weavers' arms—'Weave truth with trust'—grain sacks, with farmers' names; mat-makers, with open mat, bordered mats and cocoa-nut matting. Lastly, from the Institution were the messengers, a small van with a number of old men seated in it, and then a large van with several old men and a piper." There were also in the procession the Directors of the Institution, the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Principal Officials of the City, a detachment of Cavalry, the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, with some hundreds of fellow Masons, and the Lord High Commissioner with his suite.

After the ceremonial of memorial stone laying and declaration of opening there was a banquet in the dining-hall of the Institution. The Chair was taken by the Lord High Commissioner, who proposed the health of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, coupling with it the names of Mr. John Boyd, formerly Vice-President of Gayfield Square School, and Mr. Charles Cowan, Vice-President, Royal Blind Asylum.

The number of children who passed from the old school in Gayfield Square to the new school at West Craigmillar was forty-one, and with them was transferred the Teaching Staff, including Mr. and Mrs. McCulloch, who became Superintendent and Matron respectively. Mr. McCulloch was already well advanced in years when he undertook his new responsibilities, and he did not retire until 1881, when he had reached the age of eighty-four. He is described as being even at that age wonderfully active physically, and very alert mentally. He died in 1882. The two Music Masters were Mr. Davidson and Mr. Lees. Mr. Davidson had taught pianoforte playing, organ playing, and piano tuning to the young men at Nicolson Street. Mr. Lees had long been connected with the school, first as a pupil, and then as a Music Master. He was destined to have a still longer connection with the new school at West Craigmillar, for he continued on the Staff for the next thirty years. He now lives in honourable retirement at Bristol.

Much of the credit of the amalgamation and the success of the opening ceremonies of the new building at West Craigmillar were due to the efforts of Mr. William Martin, who had been Manager of the Blind Asylum since 1862. Mr. Martin was a conspicuous figure amongst those who worked for the Blind in those days, and will be well remembered by those, alas! a rapidly diminishing band, who took part in the York Conference of 1883. He possessed remarkable energy, and was wonderfully successful in keeping the claims of the Blind before the public. His long connection with the Institution came to an end in 1895, when he was succeeded as Manager of the Male Asylum by the present Manager, Mr. George Stott.

At West Craigmillar for a short period after the resignation

of Mr. McCulloch, the Headmastership was held by Mr. Samuel Neil, and he was followed in that position by Mr. Lawson, who was in turn succeeded in 1885 by Mr. Henry Illingworth, now Superintendent of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester. On the 7th of October, 1889, Miss Henderson entered upon her duties as Lady Superintendent, a post which happily she still occupies.

Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, visited West Craigmillar on August 20th, 1886. The school was on vacation at the time, and children and teachers had to be hurriedly summoned back from the various places where holidays were being spent. The visit was a great success; the Queen displayed much interest in the work of the women, saw the children at lessons in school, heard the choir sing. Being herself a subscriber to the school, she had the privilege of filling up a vacancy for her own foundation. A little South African boy, named Edward Rodery, was brought forward, whom the Queen named for the vacancy. Before leaving, Her Majesty most graciously signed the Visitors' Book on a page beautifully illuminated by Mr. Illingworth.

Very important changes in the Constitution were brought about in 1898. There had been a feeling, growing for many years, that the work had now become so extensive as to demand that the Board of Directors should be of a more representative character, and to achieve this end a Royal Charter was obtained, and the Institution became an Incorporated Society. The Constitution as now framed provided for a Board of Directors of nineteen, in place of the twenty-four members who had all hitherto been elected by contributors, and it furthermore provided that, of these nineteen, twelve should be elected by contributors whereof one-third were to retire annually, and that there should be seven other Directors elected, one by each of the following bodies from their number:—

The Lord Provost, Magistrates and Town Council of Edinburgh.

The Provost, Magistrates and Town Council of Leith.

The Senatus of the University of Edinburgh.

The Company of Merchants of the City of Edinburgh.

The School Board of Edinburgh.

The Parish Council of Edinburgh.

The Edinburgh and District United Trades Council.

This re-organization of the Constitution was largely the work of the Rev. Thomas Burns, D.D., who became Chairman of the Directors in 1895. Dr. Burns has held this position continuously since that time, and undoubtedly the present healthy state, and strong financial condition of the Institution are due to his untiring zeal and initiative.

The Male Asylum had been for many years in possession of two workshops, one in Nicolson Street and another in the Abbey Hill district. To enable the business to be more concentrated and therefore better managed, additional workshops were added to those at Nicolson Street, and those at Abbey Hill were given up. This was in 1897. Three years later important alterations were made to that part of the building with a frontage to the street, and on the 16th of October a Memorial Stone, to denote the completion of the work, was laid by Lord Balfour, of Burleigh, before a large and representative gathering. The buildings, as enlarged and re-arranged, contain a Board Room, accommodation for Manager, Treasurer, and Office Staff, and a shop with large and handsome saloon and show rooms for the retail department.

In the same year improvements were carried out at West Craigmillar. A large and well-fitted gymnasium was built to the west of the main building. The class-rooms were sub-divided and re-arranged, a running track was formed, and the electric light was installed. In 1906 much more extensive alterations were undertaken at West Craigmillar. A whole storey was added, providing additional dormitories and sick-rooms, and at the same time the hall was enlarged, and a laundry with all the most modern apparatus built.

As already indicated, the work of the Royal Blind Asylum and School is carried on in three divisions. There is (1) the Male Asylum at Nicolson Street; (2) the women's section at West Craigmillar; and (3) the Educational departments with the

Piano Tuning business and Braille Printing and Book Binding departments also at West Craigmillar.

The Male Asylum gives work to 150 men and apprentices. The sales last year amounted to £17,830. Basket-making, brush-making, mat-making, the making, cleaning and re-making of bedding are the chief industries. The workers all live out, either in their own homes or in lodgings supervised by the Manager. The men have an excellent brass band, which is in constant request for out-of-door performances during the Summer months. Many of the men are also members of a Reading Club, the patron of which is the Earl of Stair, who shows a very practical interest by regularly taking his turn as a reader, and by allowing the Club to hold its annual picnic in his beautiful grounds at Oxenford Castle.

There are now fifty-three women in the workroom. These all reside at West Craigmillar, and, with the exception of a few who are engaged at chair-caning at Nicolson Street, they find their work there too. This consists of the manufacture of knitted goods, mattress covers, string bags, rugs, fancy baskets, etc. Some are employed in the book-binding department, and three are Braille copyists. Sales of work are held in the Institution every Summer, and also frequently in the surrounding towns. Though living in an Institution, the life is made as home-like as possible, and restrictions and curtailments of liberty are reduced to a minimum. The women attend the churches of their choice, and many take an active part in the various church and social organizations of the city.

The School consists of two parts, an elementary department and one for more advanced students, including those who are being trained to become Professional Musicians. Most of the children are of Scottish birth, but from time to time children are admitted from England and Ireland, and at the present time there is one scholar whose home is in Paris. The youngest children are in the Kindergarten department, where there is an abundance of occupations, games, and toys.

In the senior classes Languages and Higher Mathematics are added to the studies, and Esperanto is now, also, syste-

matically taught. The children have taken very readily to this new study, and several have correspondents in other places, to whom they write in this language. Three of the senior girls are being carefully trained as teachers, and it is hoped they will in due course present themselves for the Government Certificate and that of the College of Teachers of the Blind. Nearly all the children are taught to play the piano, and a very large proportion are presented every year for the Examinations of the Incorporated Society of Musicians. The children are very fond of getting up little plays and operettas among themselves, and every year the girls give a little performance to the inmates and Staff, making a charge of one penny for admittance. This is given in the gymnasium, and is a very happy and merry occasion. The proceeds are given to the Poor Children's Shelter, or to one of the many Holiday Funds. Visitors to the school are many, and from many lands, but none are more welcome than the children who sometimes come in classes from other schools. These either take part in some debate with the West Craigmillar children, or hear exhibitions of reading and music, and see the gymnastics. Afterwards the children mix freely together, and the visiting children have tea with their blind brothers and sisters. The children frequently go good long walks, either into town or country, and the pleasant slopes of the Blackford Hill and Arthur's Seat are known to all.

The School Staff consists of five certificated teachers and one with the Certificate of the College of Teachers of the Blind. Of these, three are blind, and thus the original proportion of the blind teachers to seeing, when the school was in its infancy, is maintained. The Directors encourage their teachers to keep thoroughly in touch with the most recent of ideas in education, and give them every facility to attend lectures and classes promoted by the educational authorities of the city. At the present time some of the Staff are members of a class recently inaugurated by the Provincial Committee Training College. Three years ago one of the senior pupils matriculated at Edinburgh University at the early age of seventeen. He has since had a most distinguished career, and in the Honours Class

of Moral Philosophy has this year been awarded second prize. A very excellent library of students' books has recently been got together, and that these may be of more general service to the educated blind of the country, it has been decided to incorporate them in the Federation of Libraries Scheme in process of formation. The Music School has provision for twelve students, and is quite full. It is fortunate in having as its Senior Music Master one of the foremost of Edinburgh's musicians, Mr. Lee Ashton, Mus. Bac. (Oxon). Mr. Ashton was appointed in 1902, succeeding Dr. Prendergast, now Organist of Winchester Cathedral. He is assisted in his work by two other teachers, both blind.

The Music School has been one of the most successful branches of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, and it has always been found possible to obtain satisfactory posts for those who have received its training. Candidates are now prepared for the College of Organists Examinations. The distance from Edinburgh to London, where alone these examinations can be sat, and the expense attaching to the journey, was for a considerable time a great difficulty ; but as far as the expense is concerned, that has largely been removed by a special Fund which has recently been established. Out of this Fund the railway fares, lodgings and fees, will be largely paid, and the Fund will be available for past as well as present students. The pleasing feature of this Fund is that it is raised very largely by the efforts of the students themselves. Frequent concerts and performances of operettas are given by the choir in Edinburgh and neighbourhood, and, so far, as these are well supported by the public, there has always been a very handsome balance over after the cost of production has been met. This balance, by permission of the Directors, is used firstly, to provide toys for the younger children, secondly, to purchase tickets for concerts, and thirdly, to augment the Music Students' Fund. Every opportunity is given to the music students to hear the best music by the best performers of the day. Tickets for the weekly concerts of the Scottish Orchestra, conducted by such men as Mlynarski, Balling, and Sir Henry Wood, are purchased, as are

also those for the series of Classical Concerts, at which the greatest pianists and violinists of the day give recitals. Dr. Niecks, Professor of Music at the University, allows the pupils to attend the University Historical Concerts, and tickets are freely sent by the Edinburgh Royal Choral Society, and by others who promote concerts.

Ever since the days when Mr. Gall devised his Raised Type, and produced books for the Blind, Edinburgh has been keenly interested in the question of systems of reading and printing. In 1832 the Edinburgh Royal Society of Arts offered a gold medal for the best system, and Fry's, or, as it is better known, Alston's type was the outcome. As early as 1877, books in Braille type were printed at West Craigmillar, and in 1881, and the following year there were issued the first book of Euclid and an edition of the Latin Rudiments. These were the results of efforts made by Mr. T. D. Lees, before mentioned, and the printing was done by means of movable types. The present Braille Printing Department was founded by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, in 1890. Great were the difficulties he had to contend against; but his pluck and perseverance overcame them, one by one, and the success of the Department since its inception has never been in doubt. It is only just that chief credit should be given to Mr. Illingworth, as founder; but hardly less credit can be awarded to Mr. John Brodie, who, from the very first to the present day, has been connected with the Department, first as stereotyper and book binder, and afterwards as Foreman. Mr. Brodie is almost totally blind, and *is* totally deaf; but notwithstanding, he carries out his duties as efficiently as any one fully possessed of both faculties could possibly do. In the early days he prepared plates in the old method of hand striking, and among these were plates for books in the Amoy-Chinese vernacular, and in Arabic. Mr. Brodie is one of the best known workers for the deaf in the United Kingdom, and many and long are the journeys he takes in their behalf every year. He has been a frequent contributor to magazines, has prepared many lectures, and has written much poetry of considerable merit.

In January, 1893, "Hora Jucunda" was born, and two years later "The Craigmillar Harp" came into existence. Both magazines soon became exceedingly popular, and have attained a large circulation in the United Kingdom, in the Colonies, and in the United States of America. To meet a demand for literary matter, very largely of a political and social nature, a Supplement to "Hora Jucunda" was commenced in 1911. Other magazines printed are "The Church Messenger" and "Gospel Light in Heathen Darkness." From early days the Department has depended very largely upon the production of its School Reading Books and Music. The principal stereotyper is Mr. George Duncan, who has been at this work for 22 years, and than whom there is no greater expert on Braille questions. New machinery for printing has been installed quite recently, the printing press being very rapid and powerful and electrically driven. Four copyists are engaged in transcribing music or letterpress into Braille, and there is a staff of over thirty voluntary and paid readers. Book-Binding is an increasing section of the work, and manuscripts to be bound are received from all parts of the United Kingdom. Altogether, in the Printing and Book Binding Departments eleven blind people (the youngest is nineteen years of age) are employed, and of these, three are deaf as well as blind.

The large number of cases of those suffering from this double deprivation, who have been trained at the Royal Blind Asylum and School, and have afterwards found employment in some branch of the Institution's work, is not a little remarkable. There are at least four of these in the women's workroom, one at Nicolson Street, three already mentioned in the Printing Department, and one in the School is now being educated. Perhaps, the three most conspicuous cases are those of Robert Edgar, educated by Mr. McCulloch, David MacLean and Marion Duffin, the charming little blind-deaf girl, who is making such astonishing progress at the present time. The three cases present many features in common, though Edgar and McLean possessed some initial advantages which Marion lacked.

The Piano Tuning Department has been long established.

Mr. Andrew Calley is the instructor and principal tuner. Repairing is also taught. The young men who have passed through this Department are usually able to make a very comfortable living. The Institution itself has a large pianoforte tuning connection.

The latest addition made to the Institution is a Hostel for Music Students. For many years the students had to live in lodgings supervised by the Headmaster, as no sleeping accommodation is provided for young men at West Craigmillar. Two years ago it was decided that all the students should live together, and a house to be used as an Hostel, was obtained near the Institution. The experiment has proved entirely successful, and the working has been rendered easy by the uniform good conduct of the students who, although they have the fullest measure of freedom, have never abused the confidence placed in them.

One other feature of the work of the Royal Blind Asylum and School must be noticed before this review is closed. Every year the Directors set apart a sum to assist blind people who are not able to work, or are not suitable for residence in a Blind Institution. Last year 148 blind persons in different parts of Scotland benefited from this Fund, the amount distributed being £541.

The President of the Royal Blind Asylum and School since 1876, has been the Earl of Haddington. He shows the kindest interest in all that goes on, pays visits as frequently as he is able, and by his generous support and influence, has helped to ensure the stability and success of the Institution.

W. M. STONE.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

The annual public meeting was held at 53, Victoria Street, London, at 3.30 p.m., on March 8th, when Mr. Stuart Johnson presided, and made the following introductory remarks:—

It gives me great pleasure to occupy the chair on this occasion for, like Mr. Munby, whom we propose to honour to-day, I represent the hereditary principle in work for the Blind. My

father, the late Mr. Edmund Charles Johnson, if he were now alive would have entered on his ninety-second year; he was twenty-one when his interest in the Blind first began. He had been a prizeman at St. George's Hospital in 1839. In 1842, when he had just finished his course as a student, he accepted an appointment as lecturer at the Hospital in the branch of medical science to which he had particularly devoted himself. Before taking up this post he had determined to visit Heidelberg in order to examine the experiments which were being made there by Professor Tiedemann. Before starting he was approached by Lord Salisbury in the hope that he might be willing to take with him on the trip his eldest son, Lord Cranborne, a young man of his own age, who had been totally blind since he was seven years old from the effects of scarlet fever. My father was the youngest of a large family, and the offer was of material assistance in the expenses of the journey and otherwise not unwelcome. It was accepted, and the trip developed into an inseparable companionship, which lasted for twenty-two years, until death terminated it.

Lord Cranborne, like his brother the late Prime Minister, who was nine years his junior, was an extremely able young man. He wrote several historical works, the result of reflection and a very retentive memory, and had a curious faculty for distinguishing colours by touch. He had already travelled in the United States, and desired to go everywhere and examine everything, at a period when travelling in Europe was by no means the everyday matter it now is. My father and he stayed with Lord Stratford de Redcliffe during his celebrated Embassy at Constantinople, with Lord Lyons at Paris, and Lord Cowley at Rome. They spent seven winters in the latter Capital, and were in Italy at the outbreak of the Revolution of 1848. They visited Algeria and Egypt, and traversed Russia from St. Petersburg to Odessa before the introduction of railways, under the protection of an Imperial order obtained from the Czar, in spite of which precaution Lord Cranborne's writing frame was detained by the police as suspicious. They visited most of the Blind Schools of Europe, and in 1852 both of them joined the Com-

mittee of the School for the Indigent Blind in St. George's Fields.

Among some old papers of my father's I find the following account of a visit paid during the summer of 1854 to the Blind School at Barcelona, which he describes as the most complete of its kind in Spain:—"The School is situated in the Piazza Santa Anna in an old convent. The attendance not being compulsory is irregular. The number of pupils depend greatly on caprice, the uncertainty of the weather or any extraneous circumstance. There are intermissions on *fête* days and holidays, which, being a frequent occurrence in so Catholic a country as Spain, make it difficult for visitors to find pupils at work. The locale is very Spanish, very fragrant with the fumes of garlic, and very crude as regards furniture and school accommodation. Several small cells, once the sleeping chambers of bygone friars are now devoted to the practising of many musical instruments. The headmaster spoke French. I attended his class of instruction in the morning, and was astonished at the proficiency of his pupils. He taught them a portion of a Mass by Palestrina, and had, ere I left, almost succeeded in perfecting them in the task. The deportment of the pupils is very Spanish, and they possess a self-confidence and a nobleness of bearing which I have not remarked among the inmates of similar schools in other parts of Europe. Some forcibly reminded me of the acute, handsome and sunburnt subjects immortalized by the brush of Murillo. A peculiar manufacture of gimp might, I think, be introduced into our English Schools with advantage. It seemed to be a pleasant work. The priest who instructed the females has made some excellent raised maps in wood and cardboard, and thus taught his pupils to find their way amongst the intricate and narrow streets of Barcelona. He appeared a very mild and patient Spaniard, whose work was more of love than profit. I received the very greatest attention and civility from the Court of Directors, all members of the Municipality of Barcelona, none of whom had ever seen a blind school out of their own country."

In 1860 my father writes to the *Times* to plead for various Societies. Some of the things which he says about some of them

are amusing. He speaks of the I.B.V.S. as effecting wonders on an income of £500 a year, and says that the Committee is mainly composed of men in the middle walk of life whose occupation brings them much in contact with their poorer brethren. He announces that the income of the present poor adult is now £20, and that the Society has five annuitants. He finishes up his letter thus:—The grand desideratum for the aged blind is an asylum where they can end their days in peace. The blind school in St. George's Fields should have a factory for adult workers and West End dépôt. The St. John's Wood school should be reclaimed from debt. The shop in the New Road belonging to the Society for improving the welfare of the Blind should be kept full of workers, and, if need be, enlarged. Efforts should be made to thin the workhouses of the Blind, and every poor blind man and woman in this City should be able to get work by asking for it. I plead for no special plans, systems, or Institutions, but for all. In the same year he was writing to the *Morning Herald* on the subject of the condition of the Irish Pauper Blind, and gives the following sad picture of a pauper blind child:—“Left without friends he becomes the inmate of a workhouse where, at first pitied by the seeing, he roams unheeded about the establishment and the small enclosure of the Union grounds. Unfortunately, he has neither occupation within the Union nor interest in what goes on in the world without, and thus soon becomes mischievous, unruly, and changeable, until at the age of 25 or 30 he is utterly incapable of either action or impression for good. He has neither a trade, an embossed book, nor any means to brighten his weary walk in life.” Lord Cranborne died in 1864, and in 1867 my father attended the Paris Exhibition to report for the British Government on the apparatus and methods used in the instruction of the Blind, and became much interested in the history of the Institution Des Jeunes Aveugles. He records that at the Revolution the Blind of Valentine Häüy's Institution had imitated their seeing *confrères* and cried aloud for liberty and independence, and that a little *émeute* took place in the establishment, in spite of the fact that a short time before the ungrateful pupils had given a concert at the Palace of the

Tuileries, had displayed their proficiency before Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette at Versailles, and had been lodged and entertained in that *Château* for more than eight days. My father notes with regret that England, so rich in Institutions for the Blind, is almost unrepresented at the 1867 Exhibition. Two exhibitors only proclaimed the nakedness of the land, and were passed over by the jury as unworthy of praise. He is full of admiration for the exhibits of France and Austria. He also reported officially on methods of teaching the Blind at the London Exhibition of 1871. In 1878 he again went to Paris for the Exhibition, and I went with him. I was then a boy of nine, and added a Scotch kilt to the bewildering number of dresses of all nations worn at the Exhibition. I recollect only too well one of my father's colleagues at the Congress on the Blind which was then taking place. He was an Italian delegate—a certain Signor Martucelli. He greatly offended me by embracing me on both cheeks in public, a salute which did not fit in at all with the ideas of an English schoolboy.

Many things happened at my home which impressed a boy's imagination and made me interested in the Blind. A poor blind man of Edinburgh walked to London to the house in which I still live to have an interview with my father who had been since 1875 a Trustee of Charles Day's Blind Man's Friend Charity. We used to have constant visits from the Directors of Foreign Blind Schools. I recollect among others the late Mr. Meyer, of Amsterdam, particularly well. The Rev. B. G. Johns, whose ready pen was of service to the cause, was often with us in the early seventies, and Mr. William Harris, of Leicester, afterwards of Eastbourne, came frequently. My father had grown tired of foreign travel, but we often at this period paid visits to Institutions in England and Scotland, and in 1887, when he was a member of the Royal Commission on the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., my mother and I accompanied him to Cologne for the Congress held there.

I have said enough I think to show you that I was brought up in an atmosphere of work of this special character, and it will always be to me an honour and a pleasure to place myself

and any knowledge I may possess at the disposal of that great and important body, the College of Teachers of the Blind.

After the annual report and statement of accounts had been read by the Hon. Registrar, and Mr. H. J. Wilson had given a brief account of the objects and work of the College, the following interesting paper was read by Miss E. P. Hughes, late Principal of the Training College for Women, Cambridge.

“THE FUNCTION OF A TEACHER.”

The following address on “The Function of a Teacher” was then given by Miss E. P. Hughes, Member of the Glamorgan Education Committee, and late Principal of the Cambridge Training College for Secondary Teachers :—

“A very young friend asked me the other day an interesting question. What are the chief differences that you see in your mental horizon since you have begun to grow old?” I asked myself the question, and discovered that one great difference is a strong objection to *waste* now in a way that I did not object when I was young, especially waste of human energy and time. I suppose that when one is young one imagines time and energy as unlimited, and now one knows with the poet that there is “so much to do, so little done,” and relatively so few people to do it. I certainly find myself constantly striving nowadays to make human energy as *effective* as possible.

My experience of life has taught me that one of the most fruitful methods of economizing energy and time (in *any* work, education among the rest) is to obtain, in as early a stage as possible, the clearest possible ideas of what we want to do, and how we are going to do it. Imagine a ship starting (not a pleasure yacht, but a ship on business intent), and the captain has no orders, does not know where he is going, and has no chart! He and his ship would probably go to the bottom. Imagine a builder beginning to erect a building without a plan, and before anyone decides for what the building is to be used! I fancy the bricks would soon come tumbling about his head. And yet how many teachers have I met who have no clear idea of what their function really is; who teach geography, arithmetic,

etc., and see no connection between the different items, or any connection between them and any final goal. I have always considered that it is one of the great failings of an Englishman, that he does not understand nor believe in the supreme importance, and the practical value, of getting a clear idea and plan before he starts any work. He is so strong, and in some ways so practical, that he is far too fond of "muddling along, and getting roughly right in due time." He often does well, even under these circumstances, but it is a most wasteful way of working, wasteful in time and energy.

I am now going to make a statement which probably will surprise you. I always like to be prepared myself before I receive an electric shock, and so I have prepared you now. It is my very serious conviction that at the present moment in Great Britain a considerable amount of the time and energy of teachers is being wasted, partly because many in the outside world have no clear ideas about the function of a teacher, but still more because many teachers are in the same position. I have a great belief in the enthusiasm of a considerable number of my fellow teachers, in their unworldliness, and in their self-denying devotion. If it were possible effectively to focus this force so that the whole of it was directed to the true work of educating, very much greater educational results would, I think, be obtained.

I feel I must illustrate my somewhat extraordinary statement that much time and energy are being wasted at present in the field of education.

I find, for example, much public opinion that expects teachers to do the work of *parents*. When the Japanese Government was going to organize their education more or less on Western lines, they asked Japanese doctors, in the light of modern science, when should children begin to go to school. The answer, which is certainly upheld by modern science, was between 6 and 7 years of age, up to that time they should be at home in the care of the mother. English law says, as you know, that children may go to school at 3, and must go at 5. I constantly see tiny tots going to school in bad weather, when it would be far better

for them to be at home ; and it is surely most undesirable to mass little children together just at the age when they are most liable to infectious diseases. I consider that with these very young children, teachers are really doing the work of parents. The public rates so expended would be far more productively employed in teaching *parents*, and, still better, *girls* how to take care of young children. Again, we have our Truant Schools. When parents acknowledge, apparently without any shame, that they actually cannot manage their own little children, we send the children to a Truant School, and teachers do the work in which the parents have failed. I quite agree with an enlightened Headmaster of a Truant School who said, "It isn't the boys I ought to have here, but the parents ; it would be cheaper in the end, and better, to teach them their business once for all !" I heard one working woman say to another the other day, "Your Tommy is very disobedient. and he has'nt any manners." Tommy's mother replied, "You are quite right, but I've done *my* duty anyhow. I see that he goes to school regular. I don't know what his teachers are thinking of, they are not teaching him to behave anyhow." Ladies and gentlemen, I protest that the function of the teacher is not to do the work of the mother. I refer, of course, to day schools.

I find some teachers doing a great deal of *policeman's* work. Now a policeman has to see that I don't break the law, and to catch me if I do ; but the teacher has to teach his pupils as to what are the laws of right living, and to teach them to keep these laws themselves.

I find many teachers act as *military commanders*. Now a military commander has to obtain absolute obedience to his orders, but the teacher has to get obedience paid to the inner voice of conscience, the law of God, and the law of man, and, above all, to teach each pupil to be self-governing, and to direct his own life. Nothing can be further apart than military discipline and educational discipline.

I find teachers are doing much *clerk's* work. I think local educational authorities and the Board of Education might, with

advantage, lessen their demands in this direction, but I find a great deal of clerk's work outside these demands, *e.g.*, counting up marks, etc. A teacher must do a little work of this kind, but it should be as little as possible, for the teacher is called to far higher work—to observe the faint good desire, the misty ideal, the trembling upward aspiration, and to fan them into vigorous life.

I find many teachers doing much work as *crammers*, ladling knowledge ready digested into the children's brains, and then teaching them how to squeeze it out judiciously on to examination papers; but the teacher has to teach the children how to get knowledge for themselves, and how to utilize it, so that life shall become deeper, wider, and more beautiful.

I have a great respect for police, clerks, military commanders, and parents (and even *crammers* have their use!) but their work is *not* the work of teachers.

Now let us face the difficult question, what is the work or function of a teacher?

I will examine four answers which I have received:—

1. *The function of the teacher is to supplement the education of life.*

Some teachers talk and teach as if the teacher in the school is the only educative force in a child's life, and school their one chance of getting knowledge. It is, they think, a case of "now or never." A teacher said to me only the other day "a woman ought to know this, so we must teach it to girls in school." But the great educator is *life*, not the teacher. We should all be educated somewhat if there were no teachers and no schools. Our function as teachers is to supplement the teaching of life, *i.e.*, to help our pupils to learn from life more quickly, more accurately, more thoroughly, and more wisely. If we accept this, all kinds of things follow. If a child is attending a day school, it has a life out of school, we teachers should know much about it, and be helping the child to be more educated by it. There should be many opportunities for the meeting of parents and teachers. Again, the little world of school should be as far as possible like the best possible world outside, with private and

public duties and responsibilities, with both private and common property, as much freedom as is compatible with order, laws to be observed and laws to be made, etc. Again, school life will quickly end, and our pupils will go out into the great world. We prepare them "not for school, but for life," so we teachers must be in touch with life ourselves, for we must prepare our pupils to live nobly in it, and to learn from it lessons of wisdom. There are some teachers who seem never to look out through their school windows, and they obviously can never educate well.

2. *The function of the teacher is to teach his pupils to do without him.*

By no means do I agree with all about education that comes from Germany, but I think that the old German teacher who made this statement uttered a profound truth. Another German statement covers partly the same ground. "Never do for your children what they can do for themselves." And yet how constantly one hears a teacher giving the children what they could get for themselves from books, or by experimenting, thinking, asking questions of other people, etc. ! And thus they rob the child of the pleasure of self effort, the delightful thrill of discovery, and, in addition, lose the chance of preparing the child for the time when the teacher will not be with him, and if he cannot then get knowledge for himself he must do without it. It is not when the children are with us, but away from us, that our work is best tested, and it is what they can do for themselves which really matters.

3. *The function of the teacher is to produce a good citizen.*

I suppose that the ancient Greeks would agree with this, and certainly our American cousins would do so. The Americans have a special difficulty in the innumerable nationalities represented in their immigrants. They believe that the chief weapon to use in order to produce good citizens is *education*, therefore patriotic songs and celebrations, and the duties of citizenship are prominent in American schools. In English schools these are at present markedly absent. I am myself a strong democrat, but I frankly confess that I have found much more patriotism among the upper classes of this country than among the working

classes. I explain this partly by the fact that in the schools of the upper classes, Eton, Rugby, etc., a strong social feeling of duty to one's country is considerably developed, and at present in our primary schools it is very little developed. There are constant signs, however, that it is growing, which I rejoice over; and in the far off dominions of our Empire it is already distinctly strong.

4. *The function of the teacher is to provide three things.*

1st, a goal, or aim, or ideal, *i.e.*, something to work for; 2nd, right conditions, *i.e.*, books, apparatus, etc., all that is necessary for the work; 3rd, right stimulus to cause the work to be done. I want to make a few comments on all three.

1st, *a goal or aim.* It is not only what we do, but also what we want to do and fail to do, that matters greatly. Browning says beautifully that in God's estimate of the value of man, He includes not only what man is, but also what he would like to be, "all I aspired to be (and was not), that I was worth to Thee." I feel strongly that we do not emphasize sufficiently that part of the function of the teacher is *to create ideals*, or rather (and this is a very important correction) to help the pupils to create their own ideals.

2nd, *conditions.* Please note carefully that the function of the teacher is to prepare the right conditions for work, not to do the work himself.

3rd, *the right stimulus.* What are the best stimuli—the cane, examinations, prizes, marks, medals, detentions, extra work, etc.? It seems obvious that we had better use such stimuli as can be utilized effectively in adult life. For example, it is better for me to get a child to work for love of learning, rather than for examinations. Love of work is an excellent stimulus, and duty is a motive which we all need to fall back on in the more sombre moments of life.

I think I prefer a slightly different version of the three things which a teacher has to undertake—1st, a goal or aim; 2nd, the development of clear thinking so as to prevent waste; 3rd, the development of a strong will to carry out the work.

I believe that these four descriptions of the function of a

teacher are all true. They are like the facets of a diamond, reflecting the light of truth at a slightly different angle. There are many more facets to which I cannot now refer. The first three descriptions emphasize a fact that we teachers frequently forget, that school education is only a tiny bit of life, and is of very little use unless it is carried on so that it affects the whole, and that it is only by the whole that we can truly test it.

Finally, let me remind you, and remind myself, 1st, that it is infinitely more useful to teach a child how to learn than to teach him knowledge.

2nd, that it is far more important to teach a love of learning rather than a knowledge of learning.

3rd, it is infinitely greater to teach a human being how to govern himself rather than to govern him.

4th, it is a far nobler task to teach an intense love of beauty and truth and goodness, rather than an encyclopædia of knowledge.

Finally, fellow teachers, it is to the greater and nobler work that we have been called, for this is the true function of a teacher."

After this a Fellowship was bestowed upon Mr. F. J. Munby, the new form of ceremony being used for the first time. The Hon. Registrar read the record, drafted by the Board of Fellows, of the distinguished service rendered by Mr. Frederick J. Munby in the education of the Blind. The record reads as follows:—

Frederick J. Munby, Hon. Secretary, Yorkshire School for the Blind, the King's Manor House, York, and Chairman of the Northern Counties Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind, became interested in the education of the Blind through the influence of a Yorkshireman, William Wilberforce, who for more than thirty years represented the whole county of York during a critical period of English history. In 1833 his native county, to commemorate his work, founded the Yorkshire School for the Blind known as the "Wilberforce Memorial." The leading spirit in the movement was Canon William Vernon Harcourt. Mr. Munby's father—then a young man of twenty-nine—was appointed Hon. Secretary, and took a most active interest in the School until his death in 1875, when his son,

Mr. F. J. Munby, succeeded him. The continuous service of father and son extends therefore over the long period of eighty years. Mr. Munby's interest in the Blind was further influenced by Mr. Anthony Buckle, Dr. Armitage, Sir Francis Campbell, and many similar ardent spirits at home and abroad. The Jubilee of the Yorkshire School for the Blind was celebrated at York in 1883, and in connection with it a Conference was held which did much to create greater activity and co-operation in the cause of the Blind. On this occasion Mr. Munby received the Diploma and Medal of Merit from the International Society for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Blind.

In addition to Mr. Munby's unceasing activities as Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, he has taken a prominent part in the following conferences at home or abroad. In connection with three of these he was a member of the Committee and one Honorary Secretary:—

Congres Universal pour l'Amelioration du sort des Aveugles et des Sourds-Muets. Paris, 1879.

Conference of Managers, Teachers and Friends of the Blind; read Paper on "The Duty of the Government and School-board in the Education of the Blind." York, 1883.

International Conference of Teachers and Friends of the Blind. Amsterdam, 1885.

Conference of the Blind and their Friends. Royal Normal College for the Blind. London, 1890.

Conference of Teachers of the Blind. Kiel, 1891.

Conference of Matters Relating to the Blind—organized by the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind. London, 1902.

International Conference on the Blind, and Exhibition. Edinburgh, 1905.

Second Triennial Conference on the Blind, and Exhibition. Manchester, 1908.

He has also acted in the following capacities:—

- (a) Inspector of School returns from Birmingham and District under the Education Act of 1870.
- (b) Organizer and Secretary, Diocesan Board of Education (Manchester) from 1870-1876.

- (c) Hon. Secretary (and later Vice-Chairman), York Industrial School for Boys from 1874 to present time.
- (d) Hon. Secretary and Correspondent Manager of the Manor School for Boys, York, from 1881 to present time.
- (e) Hon. Secretary, York Diocesan Training College, 1892-1899.
- (f) Chairman of the Yorkshire Board of Legal Studies since its foundation in 1893 to the present time, and as such is a member of the Court of the University of Leeds and a member of the Court of the University of Sheffield.
- (g) President of the Yorkshire Law Society in the years 1894 and 1910.

On the motion of Lady Campbell, seconded by Mrs. W. H. Illingworth, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Hughes for her admirable address, and on the motion of Mr. H. J. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Munby, a cordial vote of thanks was presented to Mr. Stuart Johnson for presiding.

The annual meeting of the Council of the College was held at 11 a.m. on March 8th, when there was a good attendance. The annual report, with the audited statement of accounts, was read and adopted on the motion of Mr. Thurman, seconded by Mr. Norwood. The one-third of the Executive Committee who retired, were re-elected with the exception of Mr. Littlewood, who did not seek re-election. On the motion of Mr. W. H. Illingworth, seconded by Mr. Guy M. Campbell, the Hon. Officers were re-appointed. On the recommendation of the Board of Fellows it was resolved that a Fellowship be bestowed on Mr. Munby at the public meeting.

At 2 p.m. on the same day a very interesting informal meeting was held to give all members of the College an opportunity to discuss informally any matters of interest which they would like to bring forward. Mr. Wilson presided, and Mr. Stainsby brought forward the question of the education of "Myopes" in a very clear and interesting manner. The discussion was continued on a high level by Mr. B. P. Jones, Mr. W. H. Thurman, and others, and on the motion of the Rev. St. Clare Hill the whole question was referred to the Executive Committee of the College.



THE LATE
MISS MARY HOBSON,
FOUNDRRESS OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND, BELFAST.
DIED 13TH NOVEMBER 1891.

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 63.

JULY 21ST, 1913.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. The Conference on matters relating to the Blind, to be held in London at the Church House, Westminster, from June 18th to June 24th next year, is now not far distant, and we hope that all our readers will not only be present themselves, but also persuade their friends to attend. Next year's Conference will be on a very large scale, and the two largest halls, as well as small rooms, have already been engaged by the Committee appointed to organize the Conference. One of the large halls is to be given up entirely to the exhibition, which will be more extensive and more varied than any preceding one. The Committee met on June 21st, when there was a very good attendance of members, only three being unavoidably absent. The work is likely to be so heavy, that seven Sub-Committees have been appointed. The titles of several papers have provisionally been decided on, viz., "The Work of the Unions of Societies for the Blind—History and possible developments," "Blindness in Adult Life," "How to improve the attitude of the Public towards the employment of the Blind, and Legislation (past or impending), on behalf of the Blind," "How to deal with the incompetent Blind," "The Education and After-Care of the Blind-Deaf," "Pianoforte tuning as an occupation for the Blind," "Elemen-

tary Education of the Blind." It is also hoped that there will be papers from France, Germany, Denmark, the United States of America, Canada, and Australia. A list of Vice-Presidents of the Conference is being prepared, and already amongst other well-known men the Archbishop of York, the Duke of Grafton, Lord Derby, Lord Cobham, Lord Dartmouth, Lord Kinnauld, the Bishops of London, Durham, Worcester, &c., &c., have consented to serve. A full list will be printed in due course. The programme of the Conference week has already been roughly sketched out. The morning of the 1st day will be devoted partly to the President's address and partly to words of welcome to Colonial and Foreign delegates and their replies.

2. The College of Teachers of the Blind met on June 21st, when the examiners' report on candidates at the last examination was read, and the examiners for 1914 were appointed.

The names of the ninety teachers who have passed the examination at the College of Teachers of the Blind have been set up in type, but, unfortunately, owing to pressure of other matter, the list will not appear until the October number. The honours gained by each teacher will also be given.

3. The Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., Principal of the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, has been made a J.P. and not long since Mr. W. H. Tate, of Bradford, was also appointed to a similar position. Justice is proverbially blind, and apparently the authorities are turning their attention to those interested in the Blind as those likely to be impartial magistrates. Human justice has been described by the late Mr. Justice Bowen as a blind man in a dark room looking for a black hat that was not there.

4. Mr. A. M. Smith, late student of the Royal Normal College and of St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, was ordained last May by the Bishop of Durham to the Curacy of Houghton-le-Spring, and was Gospeller on that occasion. Before his Ordination he was at Leeds Clergy School.

5. Mr. Christian F. Waudby, a Gardner scholar at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, and of Queen's College, Oxford, where he held the George Barker Memorial Scholarship, has obtained a Second Class in the Honour School of English Literature in the Final Schools at Oxford.

Mr. Waudby intends to go to Westminster College, Cambridge, for a three years' course to be trained for the Presbyterian Ministry.

6. Mr. Charles Leslie Wrenn, a student of the Royal Normal College, has been awarded the George Barker Memorial Exhibition of the annual value of £50 and tenable at Queen's College, Oxford. He will begin residence in October next. Candidates for this Exhibition must either be blind or in danger of becoming blind, and intend to study for the Final Honour School of English Literature.

7. Six pupils from the Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood, entered for the Pianoforte Playing Examination of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and of the Royal College of Music in April and were successful. Helen Liles and Isabel Vass passed the Advanced Grade; Elsie Buscall, Lily Adshead, Dorothy Hill, and Florence Hughes passed the Intermediate Grade. The three last named are Gardner Scholars.

8. The Committee of the School for the Indigent Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool, passed the following resolution in reference to Mr. and Mrs. Littlewood, on resigning their posts to go to California:—"The Committee desire to place on record their high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Walter Littlewood to the Institution during the past seventeen years, in the first place as Schoolmaster at Hardman Street, and upon the establishment of the Wavertree Branch School for Blind Children, as Superintendent and Headmaster there, and latterly as Superintendent of the two Schools, in all

of which capacities he has earned the entire confidence of the Committee."

"To Mrs. Littlewood also, the Committee tender their warmest thanks for the services she has so cheerfully rendered to the Schools, both as Headmistress and more lately as Matron at Wavertree and Hardman Street."

"The Committee received their resignations with sincere regret, and wish them every future happiness and prosperity."

9. Mr. Wilson, as Chairman of the Conference Committee, wrote at their request to the Postmaster-General informing him of the circular letter issued in regard to the reduction of the International Postage on Literature for the Blind, and sending him a copy, and the following satisfactory reply has been received:—"I am directed by the Postmaster-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 15th inst., enclosing a copy of the letter sent by your Committee to Institutions for the Blind abroad, and requesting that the representatives of the United Kingdom should be instructed to support at the approaching Postal Union Conference, a proposal for the reduction of the International Postage on Literature for the Blind."

"The Postmaster-General is glad to learn that the steps which you have taken to secure the support of Institutions abroad, have been successful, and you will doubtless hear with pleasure that certain foreign administrations have agreed to support at the ensuing Postal Union Conference (which has been postponed to 1914), a proposal for considerable reductions in postage, and increase in the limit of weight, prepared in this office."

Mr. Wilson, in acknowledging receipt of the letter, expressed his pleasure in hearing that the proposal referred to had emanated from the G.P.O., London.

10. The Sub-Committee appointed by the College of Teachers of the Blind to consider the question of the education of myopic children met on June 20th, and a full and interesting

discussion ensued, Dr. Bishop Harman explaining how the children were educated under the London County Council.

11. A meeting of the greatest importance to the Blind was held at Oxford, on 13th June, at the Lodgings of the Vice-Chancellor of that University, who himself most kindly took the chair, in support of "A National Library for the Blind."

The well-known interest of Dr. and Miss Heberden in the cause of the Blind makes their house the most fitting cradle of the new movement.

The following resolution was carried unanimously :—"That this meeting calls for the establishment of a National Public Library for the Blind to be supported from Public Funds." It was proposed in an able speech by Mr. H. E. C. Lewis and seconded by Mr. J. L. Dougan, Librarian of the Oxford Public Library, whose enthusiasm and unselfish labour in this cause will be cordially appreciated by those whom he seeks to serve. Miss E. W. Austin and Mr. W. H. Dixon also spoke.

There were present, among others, the Mayor of Oxford and Mr. Madan, Librarian of the Bodleian, and the meeting resulted in the appointment of an influential Committee for the furtherance of the objects of the resolution.

12. Since our last number appeared we have been favoured by a visit from Mrs. Fowler and Miss Howard, representatives of the American Association of Workers for the Blind, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.A. These ladies are the accredited investigating agents of the Uniform Type Committee, and are investigating the *pros.* and *cons.* of European and American Braille and the New York System. The tour began last May, and now it is finished the ladies have travelled about 10,000 miles, and their test sheets have been read by about 1,000 blind people in thirty residential schools, three day schools, and twelve centres for adults. The investigation has been most exhaustive, and let us hope that the outcome of it may be the adoption of one type for the Blind, the advantages of which are obviously of supreme importance.

13. The 24th Annual Conference of the Museums Association was held this month in Hull, and we regret that we were unable to accept the cordial invitation to attend and to speak, especially as an interesting paper was to be read by Mr. Deas, Director of the Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery, entitled "How we may show our Museums and Art Galleries to the Blind : a report on some experiments."

14. The Examination of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships, tenable at the Royal Normal College, will henceforth be held twice a year, in the first week of July and December. Intending candidates should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th June and 15th November, respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

15. The blind friends of the Rev. J. Swinnerton are assisting him in raising 5,000 shillings to pay for a commodious Parish Room, 60 feet by 20 feet, where the numerous blind visitors to the Home at Llandevaud can hold their meetings and classes. It can be used as one large hall, or be divided into smaller class-rooms by movable partitions. The room was opened on 29th April.

16. The following National Health Insurance (Out-worker's exclusion) Order No. 39 is now in force, but anyone objecting to its terms is entitled to send notice in writing to the National Health Insurance Committee.

"Blind persons to whom work is given out by or on behalf of any charitable or philanthropic institution, and who are not wholly or mainly dependent for their livelihood on their earnings in respect of that work," are excluded.

17. The Trustees of the late Sir Julius Wernher have given the sum of £1,000 to the Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind in the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties (Incorporated) out of a sum left to them to distribute.

Several other Institutions for the Blind have also received grants, e.g. The British and Foreign Blind Association, £500; Swiss Cottage School, £500; National Lending Library, £200, etc.

18. Her Majesty the Queen, when visiting Crewe Hall, graciously consented to a parcel of goods made by the members of the Chester Home Teaching Society for the Blind being sent to Buckingham Palace for her inspection, and a letter has been received expressing her Majesty's approval of the high quality of the work, of which a considerable portion was purchased by the Queen.

19. The 27th Annual Conference of the Scottish Out-door Blind Teachers' Union was held at Aberdeen, on 5th and 6th June, and passed off most successfully. The President on this occasion was Miss Lyall, superintendent of the Aberdeen Association, and in appreciation of her many kind services during the Conference, she was presented, by the delegates, on the last day, with a lady's satchel purse and a fountain pen. The proceedings of the Conference commenced on 5th June, with luncheon at 2.30 p.m., when the delegates were welcomed by Miss Lyall and the Rev. P. Taylor (Chairman), and thanks on behalf of the delegates were given by Mr. Ness. The business meeting began at 3.30 p.m., when Miss Lyall presided. At 4.30 p.m., Mr. J. Keir, Chairman of the Aberdeen School Board, took the chair and referred to what was being done for the blind children in Aberdeen, and also commended very heartily to the delegates the Bill, shortly to be introduced in the House of Commons, for the technical education, &c. of the Blind. An interesting paper entitled: "Features of City Work among the Blind," was then read by Mr. T. J. Mulholland, of Glasgow, in which he gave an account of the teachers' work and strongly recommended the establishment of reading clubs. He stated that the mission libraries throughout Scotland were well stocked with high-class and up-to-date literature, which was an ineffable blessing to the Blind in the hours of darkness. The

paper was followed by a discussion. In the evening, Mr. W. Stone, of Edinburgh, presided over the meeting, at which Mr. A. C. Stericker, L.R.A.M., read an excellent paper on "Music as a profession for the Blind." The Chairman referred to his great interest in music for the Blind and how it was a part of his duty to train young men to become Church organists. Mr. Stericker dwelt on the psychological aspect of this subject and also on the educational and practical points of view, and referred especially to Braille notation and a musician's requirements. Several delegates joined in the discussion.

On 6th June, there was a devotional service from 9.30 to 11 a.m. and a business meeting at 11 a.m., when the Annual Report was read, which stated that the Union was comprised of ten Societies engaged in work amongst the Blind outside Institutions. On the united roll of these ten Societies, there are 3,515 blind or partially blind persons, and in the libraries there are 21,818 volumes, of which 14,502 are in Moon type and 7,316 in Braille. The report was submitted by Mr. Ness, and then Miss Lyall, Mr. T. J. Mulholland and Mr. Mathie gave short accounts of their work. At 12 noon, Mr. M. G. Mackenzie gave an Address on "The rise and progress of the Northern Counties' Institute for the Blind," in which he referred to his visits to the Western Hebrides, and Mr. J. M. Mackenzie read a paper on "Employment for Blind persons," in which he gave examples of the types of blind persons visited. A discussion followed, and then luncheon at the invitation of Lord Provost Maitland. At 3 p.m. there was a devotional meeting and a paper read by Miss Wilson on "The Spiritual element in the Work of our Societies." At 4 p.m., a paper entitled:—"Then and Now," written by Dr. Moon, of Philadelphia, was read by Mr. Maltman, as Dr. Moon was unable to attend. In the evening the meeting was presided over by Mr. Stone, when Mr. Frew Bryden gave a short address, which was followed by an excellent concert conducted by Mr. Stericker.

20. The thirty-third Anniversary of the North London Homes for the Blind was celebrated on 20th May, when Mr. F. A.

Bevan presided. It was stated in the Report that eighteen had been admitted during the year and that the inmates numbered 122. The year ended with a balance in hand, and had been a very successful one in every way under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Bright, the founders of the Home.

THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

North of England Union. Mr. F. H. Bentham, member of the Bradford Board of Guardians and of the Royal Commission on Poor Law, speaking at the annual North of England Union meeting, held last May in York, on "Poor Law Administration in regard to the Blind," urged the necessity for Guardians to give every assistance to Institutions for the Blind which were willing to co-operate with them in meeting the needs of the Blind in their respective areas. They possessed ample powers for dealing with the blind poor, and they must realize that the double handicap of blindness and poverty called for sympathetic handling. The Blind needed an occupation in order to mitigate to some extent their affliction. For their employment some voluntary Institution should provide the training and the employment, the balance of overpay being provided either by voluntary subscriptions, or failing that by the Guardians. Mr. Bentham described the steps taken by the Bradford Corporation to rid the streets of blind beggars by placing them in Institutions other than the work-houses. He mentioned that the blind children in Bradford were dealt with by the education authority. Many of the men taken from the streets were found capable of doing a little work—not necessarily to earn their own living. Yet the fact of providing them with some occupation was a step in the right direction. The Guardians provided a training home, drafting the Blind on to the Institution later, and undertook to pay the whole of the cost. The cost per head per week was about 15s., and altogether the Guardians were paying something like £1,000 a year. It was felt that Boards of Guardians might, by giving subsidies

in lieu, as it were, of subscriptions, do all they possibly could to encourage Blind Institutions to train those who were capable of being trained to some useful occupation. Mr. Bentham then moved the following resolution, which has been sent to all the clerks of Boards of Guardians in the area of the Union:—
 “That the North of England Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind assembled in Annual Meeting and Conference at York, 6th May, 1913, calls the attention of Boards of Guardians to the question of Poor Law Administration in regard to the Blind, and respectfully urges that the powers of the Guardians to help the Blind may be applied ‘as fully and as generously as possible.’”

Metropolitan Union. Meetings of the Executive Committee have been held on April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, and July 5th. Over 600 tickets have been issued to blind persons during the four months from the Ticket Bureau. The Annual Report has been printed, and copies have been circulated widely in the area of the Union. A very large number of leaflets on Prevention of Blindness have been issued. Special efforts have been directed in the organization of the county of Herts by a lady who was appointed for that purpose, and also for assisting in the steadily increasing work in the office. The Case Committee have been very busy, and a great many blind persons have been assisted by them. Thanks to the Misses Harris Browne a very successful display of blind women’s work was held in their residence—a kind act that must be the means of raising the standard of the work and of encouraging the workers.

Western Counties’ Union. A prominent feature in the work during the last three months has been the formation of a Society for the Blind in Gloucester. The success of this effort has been largely due to the enthusiastic sympathy of Miss Sumner with the Blind. The Organizing Secretary and the Honorary Secretary each paid visits in preparation for an inaugural meeting. This was held in Miss Sumner’s drawing room, on 26th May. The Chair was taken by the Archdeacon

of Gloucester. The Bishop of Gloucester wrote regretting his inability to be present. Amongst those at the meeting were the Mayoress of Gloucester and Captain Berthon, whose interest in the Blind in Cheltenham is so well known. Addresses were given by the Archdeacon, the Organizing Secretary and the Hon. Secretary. A strong Committee was formed. They have been most fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Hale, as Home Teacher. She has already begun her work. Arrangements were made for bringing to the notice of the public the blind workers in several towns, and also for disposing of the work done by the Blind.

Mrs. Vere Stead, the Organizing Secretary, has paid visits to a large number of places. New organizations are being formed in several centres. The Secretary has dealt with a number of cases, following up those who have left the Schools, or other Institutions; finding out children of School age who are neglected; advising about pensions, occupation, &c.

Steps are being taken to urge the advisability of making Ophthalmia Neonatorum a compulsory notifiable disease. This is being done in a systematic way, each County Medical Authority being interviewed, and a recommendation from the County Health Committee being sought. This recommendation, together with the Circular appeal, is then brought before each Local Authority, the assistance of the local Blind Agencies being also invoked.

HISTORY OF THE WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND, BELFAST.

In the year 1870 in the parish of Broughshane, distant about 30 miles from Belfast, a labourer named Thomas Cathcarte, on whom were dependent a wife and eight children, had the misfortune to lose his sight through being struck by a stone from a quarry, where blasting operations were being conducted. To this incident is to be traced the origin of the Belfast workshops. It was also the means of bringing into prominent usefulness a lady who, but for it, would in all probability have

finished her days in her quiet home, unknown to the outside world.

Little could she have realized that this accident would lead to the inception of an Institution by which the Blind in Ireland would benefit in 40 years to the extent of over £100,000, including nearly £80,000 direct into their hands, and £25,000 invested in buildings, stock, etc.

Miss Mary Hobson (daughter of the late Rev. R. J. Hobson, an aged, retired rector of the Church of Ireland) was a lady of strong religious feelings, with a child-like trust in the promises of God and the power of prayer, but who at the same time held strongly the duty of effort as an accompaniment. Finding this poor man plunged into distress, she immediately set to work to procure relief, and if possible save him and his family from becoming paupers.

Her first effort was to visit the Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind in Belfast, to see if he could be taught some employment there, but being an educational establishment, and for children only, he could not be admitted. She wrote to two Institutions in Dublin, the Richmond and the Molyneux Asylums. The former refused on account of his age; the latter also declined on the same plea, but being urged, gave him a trial, and after a short time he was able to earn 8s. per week, but as his prospects there did not appear to satisfy Miss Hobson, she wrote to the Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee Institutions. These, however, having large local interests to cope with, could not promise Cathcarte employment. Mr. Chambers, the Hon. Secretary of the Liverpool Institution, seeing how intensely in earnest Miss Hobson was, wrote her in a kind and sympathetic manner, stating at the same time that it was against their rules to admit any who had not been resident in Liverpool for at least twelve months. Miss Hobson immediately offered to maintain him there for that time if he were admitted, but Mr. Chambers, in his reply, pointed out that that would not meet the case, and added "but why not have workshops of your own in Belfast?" This remark, she wrote on one occasion, sank deeply into her heart, and she laid it before Him who is

the all powerful Friend of the Blind. The thought had never occurred to her before, but it came like an inspiration, and she determined to act at once. She wrote to Mr. Chambers, and also to Mr. Martin, of Edinburgh, for information and advice as to how the work should be commenced. The letter of Mr. Chambers, in reply, covered twelve closely written pages, all well thought out, and evincing the experience of one who possessed a good practical knowledge of the best method of starting workshops for the Blind. He did not hesitate to tell her that she was undertaking a serious task.

"I have sketched you out (he said) in rough outline, a work which might well deter anyone who would not take it up in the Lord's name. There will be much to dishearten, and little to encourage. Such was my early experience during the first two or three years of our work, but I can truly say that I was never engaged in any work which gave me so much real satisfaction."

"Much to dishearten, and little to encourage."

Such, too, was Miss Hobson's experience during the first four or five years of the undertaking, as the reader will learn later, but this venture of faith was destined to bring to her, at a later stage, very real joy and assurance.

With Mr. Chambers' letter in hand, she immediately set to work. She first gained the sympathy and help of Mr. Lavens M. Ewart, son of the late Sir Wm. Ewart, Bart., M.P., a gentleman of a most kindly disposition, who promised to assist her, and who gave her ungrudging and valuable support. On the 16th February, 1871, by personal application and letters, Miss Hobson convened a meeting of some influential citizens, and submitted to them Mr. Chambers' letter and some correspondence with Mr. Martin. She pleaded her case so well that it was at once agreed to appoint a provisional Committee, to form a constitution, start collecting and arrange for a public meeting. Mr. Ewart undertook to act as Hon. Secretary, and Mr. R. Pring as Hon. Treasurer. After several preliminary meetings, a public meeting was held on the 9th of May, Mr. J. P. Corry presiding. Miss Hobson had invited Mr. Chambers and Mr. Martin to

attend; the former was regretfully unable to be present, but Mr. Martin very kindly attended, and gave much valuable help.

Mr. Chambers had advised Miss Hobson "not to venture" to open the workshops till there was £1,000 in the Bank, and "between £200 and £300 of annual subscriptions, as they" might be stranded if they were to begin by working against "the stream." The small but enthusiastic committee which had volunteered to collect, had, by about this time, raised £1,495, of which £437 was in annual subscriptions, and in a little over twelve months it had reached £1,894, of which sum Miss Hobson had raised £627, and Mr. Ewart £585.

After some difficulty, No. 6, Howard Street, an ordinary dwelling house, previously occupied by the late Sir Wm. McCormick, of St. Thomas's Hospital (London) fame, was rented at £75 a year, and made as suitable as possible for the purpose.

An official from another Blind Institution was appointed as manager, but at the end of a year the workshops were in serious financial stress. Although there were only 22 blind persons employed, the loss in the trading department alone amounted to £789. A second manager was engaged, but he showed a further loss of £1,568 in two years. He resigned, and at the end of twelve months his successor had another large deficit, amounting to £746, and as the annual subscriptions had also fallen to about £200 there was cause for grave concern.

The aggregate loss for the first four years in the trading a/c alone amounted to the large sum of £3,103, which had a rather damping effect on the Committee, several of whom now almost despaired of making the project a success, and began seriously to contemplate the closing of the workshops. All this must have had a very trying effect on Miss Hobson. A meeting was called to consider the matter, but Miss Hobson looked up some members to secure their attendance, and elicited from them a promise not to let the scheme be abandoned, and the vote to continue the work was carried by a bare majority of one.

Miss Hobson had promoted a Sale of Work in Portrush—60 miles away—and organized concerts and bazaars in Belfast,

and had spent much time in writing personal appeals for donations, in the hope that matters would soon right themselves, only to find the money disappearing as fast as it was gathered, and with very little benefit to the Blind. At this juncture matters began to mend slightly, the loss in the trading a/c having fallen from £786 to £499, but, unfortunately, the improvement was of short duration. The stock began to rise, and the Blind, although only 28 in number, had to be put on short time, and in September, 1878, the Committee found it necessary to procure a new manager.

Another manager was advertised for, and Miss Hobson knowing a young man whom she believed to be suitable, invited him to apply, and on so doing he was appointed.

The industries that the Blind were engaged in (as recommended by Mr. Chambers) were basket-making, brush-making, upholstering, mattress-making, the re-making of old mattresses, chair caning, mat making, and the weaving of rag carpets and cocoa matting, but, unfortunately, none of them were in a prosperous condition.

The new manager suggested that a sales shop in a more central position was a matter that needed attention if the workshops were to be successful, but this was opposed by the Committee on the ground that the expense would be unjustified. Miss Hobson made an offer to collect the rent for two years before opening it, so that if it failed there would be no loss, and if it were to succeed, two years would prove it. This she carried into effect, and a small shop in Castle Place, which had just been vacated by the well-known firm of Robinson and Cleaver, was taken at £180 a year. This shop was opened in July, 1879, and at the end of December in the same year it was found that it had not only paid all expenses, but made a small profit, and it was a gratifying fact that the sales in Howard Street (the old premises) had not decreased, so that the amount of sales in Castle Place was a clear gain.

The shop in Castle Place, although successful as an experiment, was rather small, and at the close of the two years the Committee, seeing that the addition of the dépôt had enabled

the manager to dispose of a larger quantity of work for the Blind, took a larger shop in Donegall Place. By this time the annual sales had increased to £4,142, and the number employed to 36.

The following paragraph formed part of the Annual Report for the year 1880 :—

“ The shop in Castle Place has proved a great benefit to the Association, all the Blind in the workshops having been working full time, which had not been the case for more than two years on account of their production being overstocked, which your Committee are happy to say, is not the case now.”

The pressing necessity began to be felt for larger and more suitable workshops and sale-rooms. Several places in town were inspected, but none seemed to offer the accommodation required. About this time the Corporation were about to make a fine new street (now Royal Avenue) in what had hitherto been an unsightly locality. Miss Hobson proposed that the Committee should take a piece of the ground to be let there, and build suitable premises. This proposal was at first so startling to the Committee that it could not be entertained, but eventually it was agreed to, and a site 30ft. broad facing Royal Avenue, extending backwards 176ft. to Charlemont Street, was taken at a ground rent of £174.

Having secured the ground the next work was to arrange plans and raise the necessary funds to erect the building. To face this latter task required no small amount of courage, but Miss Hobson's faith in God never wavered. A special meeting of friends was called to decide what steps should be taken to raise more funds, and it was agreed to have a Sale of Work on a large scale, in the form of a “ Fancie Fayre,” in which the interest of the leading gentry of the town was to be enlisted.

The success of the Bazaar was phenomenal. The large Ulster Hall was transformed into a representation of High Street, Belfast, in 1778 (100 years previous), and all the stallholders and gentlemen were dressed in the costumes of the period. It is not known exactly how many visited the Sale, but the attendance on the first evening was so large that no sales

could be effected, and on the following evening, although the admission charge was doubled, it was still crowded. The total receipts amounted to £3,200, of which £819 was from entrance money. Those who have had any experience of Bazaars, will be able from this, to form some idea of the enormous crowds that passed through the stiles; roughly speaking, about 12,000 people. When all expenses were paid a very substantial sum was in hand, which with the donations and legacies received, amounted to £4,449. With this in store the work was begun. In the meantime the manager had visited a number of leading Institutions in England and Scotland, with a view to planning the new workshops on the most approved lines, but as the ground plan was peculiar and differed from that of all the Institutions visited (30ft. frontage and 176ft. in depth) he was obliged to adopt arrangements most suited to the circumstances, but special attention was paid to ventilation, heating, and all matters pertaining to the health of the workers.

To Miss Hobson was assigned the great pleasure and distinction of laying the foundation stone, which she did with a heart filled with gratitude to Him who had so signally fulfilled His promise to all who trust in Him.

The new workshops were opened on 9th September, 1883, and the number of blind workers was increased to 43.

A painful incident occurred a few days after the Blind had removed into the new workshops. The men who were removing the stock had forgotten to close the door of the hoist when taking the lift to the bottom, and one of the blind girls, a beautiful singer and one of the brightest workers, having lost her way in the new premises, wandered into it without being observed, and fell down the shaft about 35 feet, and was killed. This naturally caused a gloom to pass over the place. Strange to say, she had been very dull for two or three days previously, and one of the old men said to her, "Are you not well, Lizzie? Why are you so dull?" "I am quite well, thank you," she said, "but a strange sadness has come over me that I cannot account for." One would almost think that she had a kind of presentiment of something fateful about to happen.

The new buildings with fixtures, etc., cost over £6,000, and after paying architect's fees, the rents of three establishments, the heating and ventilating apparatus, and part of the above, there remained a debit balance of £2,500.

In this year (1883) the York Conference was held. Miss Hobson and the manager (Mr. Hewitt) attended as delegates for the Belfast workshops. Having learned that Dr. Armitage, who was one of the prime movers of the Conference, was called "The friend of the Blind," Miss Hobson took great pains to get all the information she could from him, and also to draw his special attention to the exhibits from the Belfast workshops. Miss Hobson, in writing about the event, afterwards stated that he seemed to take a doubtful interest in all she told him, but said he would like to see these workshops, and would do so on the occasion of his next visit to Ireland. He kept his word, and came on the 27th September, 1884, and it was pleasing to hear him say after a close inspection of the workshops, that he had not a single suggestion to make. His tribute was, "You are working on the best lines for the Blind."

Dr. Armitage attended the next Annual Meeting (10th March, 1885), along with the late Dr. Macdonald, both of the Royal Commission. He wrote Miss Hobson shortly afterwards, offering a sum of £500 on condition that the remainder of the debt on the new building (£2,000) should be forthcoming within the year. It was a large sum to collect in eight months, but there was no hesitation in accepting the offer. Remembering Who had said "The Silver and Gold are Mine," and asking in faith that He would give it, the work was begun. Lady Johnson generously wrote Miss Hobson that she would also give £500 on the same conditions, and on the 24th December in that year the entire sum was in hand, with a surplus. On the attainment of this, the following resolution was passed by the Committee:—

"That the Committee wish to put on record their gratitude
"to Miss Hobson for her unceasing exertions and complete
"success in effecting the liquidation of the building debt on the
"workshops; and they feel that they cannot express in words
"their appreciation of her disinterested philanthropic spirit, as

“ shown by her efforts since this charitable work was begun in “ Belfast by her.”

On the 19th September, 1884, a meeting was held in the workshops, to organize a Home Teaching Society, and start a library for the Blind. Lord Ashley presided, and Dr. Moon was also present.

Lady Ashley kindly consented to be President, and till the time of her death (six years later, when she bequeathed £100 to the Home Teaching Society), took a very active interest in the work. A blind teacher was appointed, who in a short time had about 84 blind pupils, but who before the year had ended, found it necessary to resign. After some unavoidable delay, Mr. T. R. Leech, a blind gentleman, recommended by Dr. Armitage, was appointed, and proved a great success. The library also continued to grow, till at present there are 1,400 volumes, but these are not used so much now as formerly, as the Committee of the Corporation Free Library, on the application of Miss Walkington, LL.D., Hon. Secretary of the Workshops' Library, now provide a good supply of Braille books of the very best class for the Blind, which are much appreciated. Miss Walkington still continues her work in connection with the Workshops' Library.

The number of Blind employed had increased in 1885 to 65, and the sales to £6,077.

In erecting the Royal Avenue building, the front portion was reserved for a shop, show room, store, and some offices, and it soon became apparent that if the number employed increased in the same ratio, additional premises would be required in a few years.

About this time a piece of ground immediately behind the workshops which had been in chancery for some time, was to be sold by auction. A member of the Committee said it would go up to £4,000, and that it would be impossible for them to bid for it. Miss Hobson said “ if it were £6,000 we should not let it go from us, as it is the only chance there is to enlarge the workshops.”

The Chairman said, "Miss Hobson, where will you get £4,000?" to which she replied, "whatever is needed will be forthcoming." This property was bought at £4,225.

The securing of this ground was of the utmost importance, as the workshops were becoming overcrowded.

In the Report of 1887 it was stated—"The present workshops are completely occupied, especially in the basket department, and your Committee feel that it is very desirable to keep in view the necessity of providing room for more workers."

On the 29th September, 1887, the workshops were visited by the following members of the Royal Commission to enquire into the condition of the Blind:—Lord Egerton, of Tatton (Chairman of the Commission), Admiral Sir Edward Sotheby, Wm. Tindal Robertson, T. R. Armitage, M.D., B. St. John Ackers, and Charles E. D. Black, Secretary. Lord Egerton wrote in the Visitor's Book—"Visited the workshops, which are admirably adapted for their purpose." Admiral Sotheby wrote—"Greatly delighted with the Institution, and covet the premises."

In 1888 the Post Office required extension, and application was made to the Committee of the workshops for a part of their new ground, which resulted in its being sold for £2,700, leaving sufficient space for our enlargement purposes. The negotiations with the Post Office Authorities caused considerable delay in erecting the additional premises.

In 1890 the sales had reached £8,058, and the number of Blind 78.

On 1st April, 1890, a strong appeal was made for funds, and shortly after Dr. Armitage wrote to Miss Hobson as follows: "Is it not time that a great effort should be made to raise funds for the enlarging of the workshops?" "If you think the time has come for this, I will do as I did before, but the amount will somewhat depend on what you think is desirable to attempt." The outcome of the answer to this letter was a generous offer from Dr. Armitage (on 1st May, 1890) of £500, if £4,500 the entire sum required were forthcoming on 1st May, 1891.

This generous offer was accepted, and by May 1st, 1891, the whole amount required was forthcoming, without having

had recourse to a bazaar. God had disposed the hearts of the people to give, said Miss Hobson.

A deputation from the Blind waited on Miss Hobson, and read her a touching address of thanks for all her efforts for their good, which affected her deeply.

In July, 1890, a Conference of the Blind and their friends was held in London, which was attended by Miss Hobson and Mr. Hewitt, as delegates from Belfast. An exhibition of the various manufactures of the Blind was held in connection with it. The Conference Report stated that "the Belfast display of "baskets and chairs was most satisfactory, special interest being "attached to this exhibit, as 'forms' are generally used at these "workshops, which may account for the accuracy of their chairs, "etc."

It was on the strong recommendation of Dr. Armitage, that the use of these forms was adopted.

From the closing months of 1890 till the end of 1891 was a sad and memorable time in the history of the Institution. The hand of death dealt heavily with many of its most devoted friends. including two of the Vice-Presidents, the Lord Bishop of Down and Sir James P. Corry, M.P. (the latter had presided at the first public meeting in connection with the Association). Lady Johnson also passed away. She was the Institution's largest donor, having contributed in all £1,700 to its funds, and who, on each occasion when Dr. Armitage made his generous offer of £500, backed it with a similar amount. Next came Dr. Armitage himself, a gentleman who not only stimulated the good work for the Blind in Belfast by his most generous donations, but truly won for himself the admiration of every friend of the Blind throughout the world. His sympathy, self-sacrifice, and generosity in the cause of those who suffered a like affliction to his own, can never be forgotten by those who know anything of his life. He, above all others in the 19th century, gained the undisputed title of "the friend of the Blind."

Last, but not least, Miss Hobson was also taken, but not till she felt that she had finished the great work she had been called to do. Dr. and Mrs. Campbell (now Sir Francis and

Lady Campbell) had arranged for a concert to be given in Belfast by some of the pupils of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, London. Miss Hobson took a very active interest in the arrangements. Few, indeed, knew of the amount of work done by this courageous and indefatigable woman in connection with it. Considering her age (72), it was no ordinary undertaking to be responsible for the bringing over of twelve blind persons from London, and arranging for their housing and locomotion in Belfast.

On leaving the hall after the rehearsal for the concert, Miss Hobson caught cold, and on reaching her home felt that she was seriously ill, but so anxious was she to see the undertaking through that she charged her maid not to tell her sister of her state, lest they might dissuade her from going out on the following evening. Throughout her illness of ten days, she did not expect to recover, nor, indeed, had she any desire to, but prayed rather that she might be taken, as she felt that her work was completed, and had no desire (as she said) to sit rusting in her arm chair. She died on the 13th November, 1891, lamented by all connected with the work for the Blind.

Many letters of sympathy and regret were received by the Committee, including one from Lord O'Neill (the President), and one from the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, showing how much her work was esteemed. Certainly she has left a noble pattern to others in devotion to the cause of suffering humanity, which may bear fruit for generations to come.

The new buildings which were in course of erection when Miss Hobson died, were completed shortly after, and have long since been filled with blind workpeople.

In these new buildings willow peeling, firewood bundling, and the manufacture of bamboo furniture were introduced, and have given constant employment to a considerable number.

In 1895 the sales had increased to £12,391, and the number of Blind employed to 93.

In 1898 death had removed four more of the Committee, including Mr. Lavens M. Ewart, the gentleman who gave so much assistance to Miss Hobson when founding the Institution.

The latter's early demise was deeply regretted by the Blind, and all who were connected with the Institution.

In 1901 further additional buildings were erected at a cost of over £2,000, mainly for the purpose of providing dining rooms for the Blind. These were opened on the 22nd November, 1901, by the then Lord Mayor, Sir Daniel Dixon. The late Mr. Forster Green made a generous donation of £500

The dining rooms have been greatly valued by Blind, about 90 of whom take advantage of them daily. Meals are served at cost, and being as cheap as they can procure them in their own homes, the rooms are freely patronized.

On 10th May, 1908, a disastrous fire occurred, which completely destroyed the whole of the front section of the Royal Avenue building, including the shop, office, show rooms, etc. Fortunately, it occurred in the night when there was no risk to the employees. The total loss sustained amounted to £6,000, which was covered with Insurance, but owing to the increased cost of materials and the erection of a more handsome and up-to-date building with lift and other useful additions, there was a deficit of about £1,000 which, by a strong effort, the Committee were able almost to wipe out.

This year (1913) the Committee feeling that provision should be made for the safety of the Blind in the event of fire, have installed fire alarms in every room throughout the premises, by which, if a fire should occur, an alarm is immediately signalled to the fire brigade and the Institution's offices. By this means the brigade can be on the spot in three minutes. An indicator is placed near the front entrance, showing in which room the fire is located. The Blind also are trained in fire drill once a month, so that they may know how to act in case of an emergency.

The sales last year amounted to £19,836, and the number employed was about 130. The total benefit received by the Blind amounted to £3,756, of which £3,270 was in wages, and £486 in charitable allowances.

It is well known by those who have had experience in the working of Blind Institutions, that they cannot possibly be made

self-supporting when the manufacture and sale of goods are entirely confined to those of the Blind.

The Blind cannot usually earn sufficient to maintain themselves without supplementary assistance, neither can the ordinary expenses of an Institution be maintained out of the profits on their manufactures. These two facts, therefore, emphasize the need of external assistance of some kind, in order first, to keep the Institution in existence ; and secondly, to enable the Blind to carry home such remuneration as will enable them to maintain themselves properly, even though, through their disability, they may not have fully earned it. This is accomplished by means of subscriptions, legacies, incomes from investments, profits from trading, and especially trading in goods not made by the Blind.

The Belfast Institution, whilst it has been most generously supported when needing subscriptions for buildings for the Blind to work in, etc., its annual subscriptions as a rule have not been as generous as might be expected. This is due to the feeling that Institutions of the kind should be self-supporting. Consequently, being thrown on its own resources, it has had to trade largely in goods not made by the Blind, and by this means the working expenses of the Institution have been covered, and the Committee have for many years been enabled to devote all subscriptions, donations, and legacies towards supplementing the earnings of the Blind, and in giving sick allowances and pensions.

In the Summer time the Blind are given a day at the sea side, each blind person being permitted to bring a guide. At Christmas each one is presented with an ample supply of suitable provisions for the holiday season, through the efforts of the Ladies Committee, assisted by the Workshops. During the Summer months some of the sick and delicate are sent to the seaside for a short stay. Aged and infirm workers are pensioned when they are no longer able to work, and an effort is made to allow none to end their days in the workhouse.

Medical advice and medicines in the past have, in most cases, been provided free.

The Institution is open to all, irrespective of creed.

But scant reference has been made to the great services rendered by the Committees of gentlemen and ladies, who have ungrudgingly devoted much time and attention to the cause of the Blind, and the development of the Institution. One in particular must be mentioned, Mr. A. D. Lemon, J.P., whose services have been invaluable, he having acted as one of the Hon. Secretaries since 1876. Mr. Lemon is the only surviving member of the Committee who took part in the first meeting in 1871. His portrait in oil, together with those of Miss Hobson and Mr. Lavens M. Ewart, J.P., adorns the walls of the large showroom of the Institution.

Since May, 1911, Mr. J. Pim Thompson has been ably associated with him as joint Hon. Secretary.

The present Lord O'Neill succeeded his father more than twenty years ago as President of the Institution, and still, with Lady O'Neill, takes a most active part in promoting all that makes for its well-being and progress.

J. H. HEWITT.

BLIND CLERGY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The following list, kindly prepared by Mr. Stainsby, gives the names of men who were blind when they were ordained Deacons in the Church of England and have been educated at a College or School for the Blind. The editor will be obliged by any inaccuracy or omission being pointed out to him. He is fully aware that there are several men who have become blind since their Ordination, but it is not intended to include them in this list:—

1. Barnard, T., M.A., Oxon. (r), Roborough, North Devon.
2. Beresford, J. J., M.A., Camb. (r), Easton Grey, Malmesbury, Bristol.
3. Bolam, C. E. (r), St. Mary Magdalene, Lincoln.
4. Dowdeswell, T. B., B.A., Oxon. (c), Treetom Rectory, Rotherham.
5. Gardner, J. L., M.A., Camb. (p-in-c), St. Andrew's Mission, Gullane, East Lothian.

6. Hamilton, W. H., B.A., Dur. (c), Pidley Pars, Huntingdon.
7. Jackson, W. H., B.A., Oxon. (c), Little Ilford, Essex.
8. Jenkins, R., M.A., Dur. (r), Talaton, Ottery St. Mary, Exeter.
9. Llewellyn, G. M., M.A., Oxon. B.D. Wales University (c-in-c), The Parsonage, Gilfach Goch, Glam.
10. Loyd, W. B., M.A., Oxon. (c), St. Barnabas, Hove.
11. McNeile, N. F., M.A., T.C.D. (v), Brafferton, Helperby, Yorks.
12. Marsh, F. T., B.A., Dur. (r), Sedgeberrow, Evesham, Worcester.
13. Marston, H. J. R., M.A. (ass. min.), St. Peter's, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells.
14. Nash, P. L. C., B.A., Dur. (r), Usk Rectory, Monmouth.
15. Palmer, W. S. C., B.A., Oxon.
16. Pope, G. C., M.A., Oxon. (v), Cornworthy, Totnes, South Devon.
17. Powell, A. H., M.A., Oxon. (c), St. James, Dudley.
18. Roberts, H. A., B.A., Lamp. (c), Rhoscolyn-w-Llanfair.
19. Robins, W. H., D.D., T.C.D. (Canon of Rochester) (v), Gillingham, Kent.
20. Schofield, W. A., B.A., Oxon. (c), St. Andrew's, Huddersfield.
21. Smith, A. M., B.A., Oxon. (c), Houghton-le-Spring, Durham.
22. Gordon-Smith, J. H. G., M.A., Oxon. (c), Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.
23. Swayne, R. C., M.A., Oxon. (c), East Layton, Nr. Darlington.
24. Swinnerton, John, M.A., Oxon. (v), Tolleshunt Major, Witham, Essex.
25. Warden, J. F., M.A., Oxon. (c), Tideswell, Buxton.
26. Whitehead, A. F., B.A., Dur. (r), Keinton Mandeville, Taunton.
27. Whitehead, S. F., B.A., Dur. (r), Aston Somerville, Nr. Broadway, Worcester.
28. Whittleton, G. F., M.A., Oxon. (c), St. Peter's, Plumstead.

Abbreviations.—C, Curate ; c-in-c, Curate-in-Charge ; p-in-c, Priest-in-Charge ; r, Rector ; T.C.D., Trinity College, Dublin ; v, Vicar.

THE FEDERATION OF LIBRARIES FOR THE BLIND.

Its History and Its Constitution.

So much has been written during the past few years on the subject of Libraries for the Blind, their defects and their possibilities, that the previous obscurity of this branch of work for the Blind has been amply illumined, and we are in some danger of vain repetition and the consequent fatigue of our readers.

But in announcing the Federation of Libraries as an accomplished fact, it has seemed well, even at the risk of such repetition, to give a short account of the history and development of this movement.

It is some six years since the first suggestion of the necessity for union among Libraries for the Blind emanated from the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind. The idea was freely, if unofficially, discussed at the International Conference of 1908, where it was received by many with an enthusiasm which has never wavered, some of whom have worked untiringly at the ideal they then set before them.

The article in *The Blind* of January, 1909, by Mr. E. C. Hamley, Chairman of the I.N.L.L.B. and the circular entitled "A Plea for a Universal Library," did much to make known the need for organization, but it was not until the Conference of 1911 that, after a discussion of wonderful unanimity in which blind man after blind man came on to the platform simply to testify to his belief in the benefits of the suggested union, a Committee was appointed to bring about, if possible, some form of co-operation among those possessing and circulating books for the Blind. Its members were as follows:—Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Lady Campbell, Miss M. E. Comber, Miss I. M. Heywood, Miss Moon, the Rev. C. Bolam, Mr. W. H. Dixon, Mr. E. C. Hamley, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. H. v. Niederhausern, Dr. Ranger, Mr. H. Royston, Mr. W. M. Stone, Mr. H. J. Wilson (Chairman), and Miss E. W. Austin (Hon. Secretary).

This Committee has done its work, and has now only to report to the next International Conference.

It found upon examination that there was truth in the indictment of existing conditions. There was overlapping and a consequent waste of effort; it was a fact that much-needed books were often inaccessible, hidden away in schools, upon the shelves of local libraries, rarely used, and their very existence unknown save to the librarian; there was no authoritative catalogue to be had, and in consequence no chance of discovering these hidden treasures. These very books were sometimes imperatively needed by the blind student, who was obliged to get them written for himself at great expense and labour. Finally, there was no recognized centre to which to apply for information or for help by experienced Braillists in the transcription of desired works.

Blind students might or might not know of the valuable collection at Oxford, they might or might not belong to circulating libraries, but in any case there was no organization to give them the necessary information or to help them to the desired loan.

Further—a very serious point—save in a few cases there was no organized training and supervision of volunteer Braillists. Valuable workers were thus allowed to write books which were incomplete, ill-brailled, often practically useless, when these same writers, if carefully trained, would have added untold wealth to the national store of embossed literature. The inestimable gift of eyesight to the service of the Blind was thus partially wasted through lack of organized supervision.

The Committee set itself to find some means of combating these evils.

They had to discover—

(1) How to secure some form of Union or Federation among existing Societies for the provision and circulation of books.

(2) How to render accessible existing books.

They took the second problem first and at once authorized, and raised funds for, the compilation of a "Union Catalogue"

of embossed books. This was made by means of slips, most kindly filled, in nearly every case, by the societies, institutions and individuals possessing the books. These slips, amounting to between 11,000 and 12,000, are now in the hands of Mr. G. E. Roebuck, Librarian of the Walthamstow Public Library, who has generously placed his knowledge and experience at the disposal of the Committee. Mr. Roebuck's invaluable service in collating the information received will be appreciated by thousands of blind readers. The funds necessary for this initial work, about £25, were subscribed almost entirely by the Blind themselves.*

When finished, the Catalogue will be housed at the National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, London, W.

Next, the Committee were faced with the following facts :—

According to the enquiry made in 1910-1911, there are some 65 societies and institutions for the Blind claiming to have libraries. These range from 90 to 5,000 volumes. Of these, 19 are for the use of the inmates of the institution only, and of the whole number only 19 possess over 1,000 volumes (equal to about 250 printed books).

There are, however, libraries and even individuals possessing books available to students who would be willing to lend them under certain circumstances.

Notable among these are :—

The Students' Library at Oxford.

The Library of the Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood.

The Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh.

It is obvious that the owners could not lend their more valuable books without a reliable guarantee, and that some machinery would be needed to engineer exchanges and to ensure the upkeep of the Union Catalogue, which would be useless unless kept continually up to date.

*NOTE.—The committee take this opportunity of begging any private owners of embossed books to communicate with the Secretary of the Federation, Miss E. W. Austin, The Clearing House, 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W., and to allow their books to be included in the Union Catalogue. This will not bind them in any way to the future loan of such volumes.

To this end and for the furtherance of the other objects of Union, viz., the prevention of overlapping, the training of voluntary writers, the employment of blind writers, the promotion of a knowledge of the wants of blind readers for the information of the Publishing Houses and others, the Committee drafted a Scheme of Federation which they submitted to a certain number of the libraries and institutions for the Blind. This Scheme, with a few very slight alterations, has been accepted by them.

It has been thought best to submit the Scheme to a few only of the largest libraries first, in order that its usefulness may be tested. Extensions of the Federation may be made later if found desirable, but its benefits may at once be enjoyed by all by affiliation to one of the Federated Libraries. These are, up to the present :—

- (1) Catholic Truth Society, London.
- (2). College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester.
- (3) Fife and Kinross Society for Teaching the Blind.
- (4) Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester.
- (5) Home Teaching Society, London.
- (6) Moon's Society for the Blind, Brighton.
- (7) National Lending Library for the Blind, London.
- (8) Northern Counties Blind Society.
- (9) Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh.
- (10) Royal Institution for the Blind, Birmingham.
- (11) Royal Institution for the Blind, Nottingham.
- (12) Royal Normal College, Norwood.
- (13) Students' Library, Oxford.
- (14) The British and Foreign Blind Association.
- (15) Yorkshire School for the Blind.

The Scheme of the Federation is as follows :—

SCHEME OF THE FEDERATION OF LIBRARIES FOR THE BLIND,
as amended at the Meeting of the Delegates on April 11th, 1913.

1. The establishment of a Central Office (or "Clearing-House") whose duties shall be as enumerated :—

- (a) To collect material for, to prepare and revise periodically a Union. Catalogue, which should contain

particulars of all books in embossed types in the United Kingdom; this Office to receive notification of any new embossed works.

- (b) To act as the recognised body to effect exchanges of books.
- (c) To receive suggestions as to the requirements for new books, and to use its best endeavours to secure the production of such books, either through the Printing Houses or by hand.

N.B.—The Clearing House shall submit the suggestions of readers for new books first to the Publishing Houses. If these do not consider that they should be stereotyped, they should be produced by voluntary labour, if suitable.

- (d) To keep a register of the work upon which Voluntary Writers are engaged, in order to prevent overlapping, and to secure as far as possible the correction of all handwritten books.
- (e) To induce Public Libraries which have not already done so to contribute to the provision of literature for the Blind.

2. The appointment of Local Representatives (where possible the Home Teaching Society or some Society already doing good work in the district) to organize the work of the Federation in their respective districts, *i.e.* :—

- (a) The enlistment and training of Voluntary Writers.
- (b) The registration and employment of paid Blind Writers.
- (c) The organization of the financial side of the work in the district, to include the establishment of a fund for the payment of qualified Blind Copyists.
- (d) The distribution of books through the local Society, Public Library, or otherwise.
- (e) The drawing up of periodical lists of books required in embossed types.

3. The initial membership of the Federation shall be by invitation and afterwards by election, and an effort be made to defray the expenses of clerical labour, stationery and printing

by voluntary effort without subscription in the first instance. On the increase of expenses, a subscription to be calculated upon the number of exchanges will probably be charged.

A fee of 5d. on each volume borrowed shall be charged to the borrower, to be allocated as follows:—

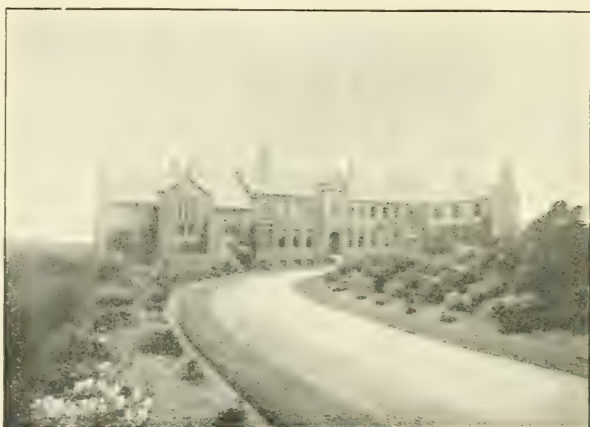
To be retained or collected in cash by the Clearing House (to cover postage incurred in making the connection between lender and borrower)				1d.
To be paid to the lender, viz., Carriage				1½d.
Fee for Loan				2½d.
Total				5d.

Such payments will not be payable in small sums, but the account of each member will be kept at the Clearing House, balanced against those of other members with whom he had transactions, and a statement rendered periodically to all members.

It remains only to add that the Chairman of the Council of the young Federation, which is composed of the representatives of the various Federated Bodies, is Mr. H. J. Wilson; the official Clearing House or Central Bureau, the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W., whose Committee have kindly undertaken the work for the first months entirely voluntarily; the Honorary Secretary, Miss E. W. Austin, to whom enquiries may be addressed. The local representatives, on whom will depend to so great an extent the real usefulness of the movement, have not yet been appointed save for the representatives of bodies already in the Federation, who will fill this office in their district.

There is no doubt that many slight alterations and adaptations will be found necessary in working out so new an undertaking, but the good will and energy which all are bringing to bear upon this work, so entirely for the benefit of the individual blind readers and not for that of any institution or society, are in themselves an earnest of its future success.

E. W. AUSTIN.



SCHOOL FOR BLIND CHILDREN,
WAVERTREE, LIVERPOOL,

OPENED

JANUARY, 1899.

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 64.

OCTOBER 20TH, 1913.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. The City of Bristol and the Bristol Royal Blind Institution have suffered a severe loss by the death, on 7th July, of Mr. Joseph Storrs Fry, at the age of 84. Mr. Fry was a bachelor, the senior member of the Bristol firm of Cocoa and Chocolate manufacturers, an Honorary Freeman of the City of Bristol, and for nearly ten years had been Vice-President and Chairman of the Bristol Blind Asylum.

During the past six or seven years his sight had gradually failed, and for some years he had been totally blind. This had not interfered with his active participation in the management of the Institution as well as that of other Societies, in particular the British General Hospital, of which he was Treasurer.

His association with the Blind Asylum covered the most critical period in its long existence. The removal from the old premises in Queen's Road, the building of the new Schools and the acquisition of new Workshops and the amalgamation with the Park Street Association were carried out under his chairmanship. Mr. Fry lived to see the work finished and the Institution launched on a new career of increased usefulness.

He was a member of the Society of Friends, and the funeral took place at the Friends' Meeting House, Rosemary Street,

on 12th July (the fourth anniversary of his laying the foundation stone of the new Schools for the Blind). The company present was representative of the civic, religious and philanthropic agencies of the City of which he had been a generous supporter. By his will Mr. Fry made large bequests to his employees, and to religious and charitable associations, including £5,000 to the Bristol Blind Asylum.

2. It is with very great pleasure that we announce the fact that H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught has graciously consented to be Patron of the International Conference on matters relating to the Blind, to be held next June in London. In addition to the Vice-Presidents mentioned in the last number, the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Bedford, the Marquis of Crewe, Lord Manvers, Lord Norton, Lord Armstrong, Lord Belhaven, and the Bishops of Oxford and Birmingham have kindly consented so to act. A meeting of the Conference Committee is shortly to be held, when the preliminary prospectus will probably be drawn up and issued, and the Conference will be advertised in the newspapers at home and abroad.

3. Five students from the Royal Normal College have passed the Royal College of Organists' recent examinations. Andries van Velden, of Symonstown, South Africa, gained his fellowship. Elsie Buscall, of London, Andrew Fraser, of Newcastle, Edwin Parkinson, of Colne, and Horace Smaldon, of Bristol, gained their associateship. Out of 230 candidates who entered for the associates' examination, Andrew Fraser was second on the list, thus securing the "Sawyer" Prize. This is the first time this prize has been won by a blind person, but on two previous occasions the "Lafontaine" Prize was won by a pupil of the Royal Normal College. Two others, Gordon Lavers, of New South Wales, and Marshall Pearson, of Jarrow, passed in theory. Since 1902, thirty-three students from the College have passed the Associateship examination of the College of Organists, and fifteen have taken in addition the Fellowship Degree. Of the

above Horace Smaldon has been appointed organist to a Church in Cornwall, and Andrew Fraser to the Wesleyan Church at Upper Norwood. Both men, we hear, are giving much satisfaction.

4. Mr. C. L. Wrenn, Mr. Percy Nichols, and Mr. Harold Lakeman, all Students of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, the first two being Gardner scholars, have recently passed "Responsions" at Oxford. Mr. Wrenn goes to Queen's College, Mr. Nichols to Wadham, and Mr. Lakeman (in 12 months time) to New College.

5. Mr. C. L. Wrenn, to whom we referred in the last number, paragraph 6, as having gained the George Barker Memorial Exhibition of £50 a year, has also been awarded by the Surrey Education Committee, an open County Major Scholarship of the value of £60 a year, tenable for 3 years.

6. Mr. W. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., recently visited Fribourg for the purpose of playing 50 pieces, of which 25 had to be original, to be permanently recorded on an instrument invented for the purpose of reproducing the work of Organists.

7. Mr. T. G. Osborn's Allegro Moderato for the Organ was one of the test pieces for the Competitions in connection with the Music Exhibition which has just taken place in London.

8. We regret to hear that Mr. Arthur L. Lowe has resigned the chairmanship of the General Committee of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, after eleven years valuable service. He will be greatly missed, as he has done much for the Institution, and is keenly interested in the Blind. He has been succeeded by Mr. Alfred Wilson, who has been Chairman of the Trade Committee for ten years. The Institution suffered a great loss last month by the death of Mr. Alfred Robert Gaul, who had been for many years teacher of music to

the pupils, and had trained many with remarkable success. Mr. Gaul composed much, but it was "The Holy City" that made his name most known as a composer. He twice declined the post of organist at Norwich Cathedral, and other important posts were offered him, but he preferred to remain in Birmingham, where for more than half a century he has been associated with the musical life of the city.

9. On 17th August, Mr. H. von Niederhausern completed his fortieth year as Superintendent of the Northern Counties' Blind Society, 4 and 5, Howard Street, North Shields. This is a fine record of long and faithful service on behalf of the Blind. The Society consists not only of a workshop and Home Teaching for the Blind in the Counties of Northumberland, Durham and the North Riding of Yorkshire, but there is also a large library in raised type and a printing press in Moon's type. The magazine *Dawn* has been printed in this type by the Society for the last twenty-seven years, and is published quarterly.

10. Mr. Patrick Gray, who has been headmaster of the Royal School for the Blind, Bristol, for eight years, has been appointed Principal of the School for the Blind, Montreal, Canada.

11. Four girls from the L.C.C. School at Elm Court, have recently taken the examination in Grade I., Basket Work, held by the City and Guilds. Ethel Dunkley obtained a First Class Certificate, and Agnes Allen, Ethel Collins and Alice Thorp, Second Class Certificates.

For the sixth consecutive year, in competition with about 2,000 schools in and around London, a blind girl from the L.C.C. School at Elm Court has won one of the principal prizes given by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, for an essay on the subject, Agnes Allen being placed sixth on the list. Bertha Johnston was awarded a Certificate and ordinary prize.

12. During the current year we have published the history

of four Institutions for the Blind, viz., the Royal Normal College for the Blind, by Lady Campbell, in January; the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, by Mr. W. M. Stone, in April; the Workshops for the Blind, Belfast, by Mr. J. H. Hewitt, in July; and in this number, the School for the Blind, Liverpool, by the late Rev. T. W. M. Lund. We propose to continue this arrangement during 1914, and the following histories have been kindly promised. For January, the Royal School for the Blind, Bristol, by the Rev. C. F. Hardy, M.A.; for April, the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., J.P.; for July, the Royal Asylum for the Blind, Glasgow, by Mr. T. Stoddart; and for October, the Yorkshire School for the Blind, by Mr. A. B. Norwood, M.A.

13. The following have been appointed examiners for the College of Teachers of the Blind for the year 1914, and have been approved by the Board of Education, viz.:—Miss Garaway, Miss Bell, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Pine, and Mr. Ritchie; Mr. Stone has been appointed moderator.

14. The Royal Humane Society awarded their Certificate for saving life from drowning to Arthur Smith, an ex-pupil of the School for the Blind, Stoke-on-Trent. Smith is a partially sighted lad, and was taught life saving while at school. The occasion for this award was the fact that while walking a few weeks ago on the canal side he came across a boy who had fallen into the water and was in danger of drowning. Smith, fully dressed, instantly plunged in, and using the methods he had been taught at school, safely brought the boy to the bank.

15. The first annual meeting of the Association of Teachers of the Blind was held at the Royal Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, on Saturday, September 13th, some 50 members being present. The morning was occupied in visiting the Queen Alexandra Kindergarten School, the new Workshops, and with a Committee Meeting. Lunch was afterwards served at the Colonnade Hotel, Birmingham. In the afternoon the

teachers were welcomed to the Institution by Mr. Thurman, thanks being returned by Mr. Stone on behalf of the visitors. The Chairman of the Association, Mr. W. M. Stone, F.E.I.S., delivered an admirable address upon "The Education of the Blind." Particular points introduced by the speaker were:— (1) Why the Blind should be educated? (2) Who is to be responsible for the work? (3) How are we to educate blind children? Three principles of methods were also considered (*a*) knowledge of the child; (*b*) the cultivation of its physical activity; (*c*) making its education a pleasure. Capable teachers, and an intimate connection between these and the medical officers, were also advocated. A short discussion followed, in which Messrs Campbell, Robinson, and Evans took part. The business meeting followed, and this proved an important and lengthy one. The present state, future policy, and constitution of the Association were fully discussed; the appointment of officials ratified, and Miss Brautigam chosen to fill the vacancy on the Committee. Reports were made by Miss Garaway upon the Museum's Association meeting at Hull, and upon the work accomplished in connection with the Mental Deficiency Act. Miss Bell was elected to represent the Association upon the Consultative Literature Committee of the British and Foreign Blind Association, and the financial statement presented by the Treasurer was considered highly satisfactory. Correspondence relating to the Conference was read, and arrangements in connection with the next annual meeting were discussed and agreed upon. Tea was afterwards provided by the Institution Management, votes of thanks being given to the Institution Committee, Mr. Thurman, the Matrons, and to Mr. Robinson, who had made the local arrangements for the day.

16. The re-union of the old students of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, took place from July 14th to 18th, and passed off very successfully, 27 being present. On the Speech Day the acting by the present students of the forest scenes from "As You Like It," was particularly good, and will long be remembered. On the following day

there were athletic sports and a display of scouting, both of which have been introduced by the new Principal, Mr. Brown. Next day there was a cricket match between the old and present students, when the latter won, and in the evening the old students dinner took place with the usual toasts, including one to the Rev. Thomas Barnard, the founder of the old students Union. During their visit the old students were most kindly and hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Brown. The College has decided to start a magazine.

17. The Examination of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships, tenable at the Royal Normal College, will henceforth be held twice a year, in the first week of July and December. Intending candidates should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th June and 15th November, respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

18. In reference to the notice of the George Barker Memorial Exhibition in paragraph No. 6 of the last number, Mrs. Barker has asked us to make it quite clear for future candidates that she has decided from henceforth not to confine the scholarship which she founded, only to those studying for the Final Honour School of English Literature, which might not appeal to many blind men going up to Oxford, but to extend the Exhibition to those who intend to study for Honours in *Litt: Hum:*

19. The 8th annual re-union of former pupils at the L.C.C. Elm Court School for the Blind, West Norwood, was held on August 30th. There were 56 present, and many more wrote regretting their inability to attend. The afternoon was passed out-of-doors in social intercourse and renewal of school friendships, and after tea everybody adjourned to the school-room, where an excellent concert was given, and Mr. B. P. Jones, the Superintendent, welcomed the quondam students. The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the L.C.C. for allowing the annual gathering to be held, and with singing 'Auld Lang Syne.'

20. All those who are interested in the Blind, especially those of us who for many years have been doing our utmost by leaflets and in speeches to draw public attention to the terrible ravages of preventable blindness, will have read with great pleasure what Mr. John Burns said about ophthalmia neonatorum in his speech last August, at the International Medical Congress in London. According to the *Morning Post* of 13th August, Mr. Burns is reported to have said:—

“In a large number of districts ophthalmia of the newly born was already notifiable, and he was about to issue an Order making this disease notifiable in every sanitary area, and enabling sanitary authorities to provide the prompt medical aid and nursing required to prevent this serious cause of blindness in childhood. . . . The Notification of Births Act had enabled medical officers of health to obtain the information as to births within thirty-six hours of their occurrence, whereas registration might be delayed for six weeks; and by this means early visits could be made in suitable cases by means of nurses or health visitors, competent to give useful advice.”

The authorities at Leicester and Worthing are amongst the recent ones who have made ophthalmia of the newly born compulsorily notifiable. This is largely due, in the first case to a speech made at Leicester not long ago, by Mr. Thurman, Secretary of the Birmingham Institution for the Blind, and in the second case to the action of Miss E. Moore, Hon. Secretary of the Worthing Society for the Blind.

21. As an excellent example of gratitude for benefits received at the Liverpool Workshops for the Blind, Lewis Morris bequeathed to it a legacy of £50. Morris had been employed at the Workshops for 43 years, during which time his wages never exceeded 18/- a week. Every week he put on one side a portion of his earnings, and at his death had saved £250.

22. The following books in Braille have recently been added to the Public Library at Oxford, viz., Burns's Selected

Poems, Cæsar's *De Bello Gallico*, Books 3 and 4 and Book 1 translated, Cicero's Letters, Clarendon's *Great Rebellion*, Book 3, De Quincey's *Extracts*, *Suspiria de profundis*, Euripides' *Bacchæ*, A. Marshall's *Elements in Economic in Industry*, Meline's *Text Book of Logic*, Plautus' *Captivi*, Salust's *Cataline*, Seneca's Letters, A. Sidgwick's *Greek Prose*, J. C. Stobbart's *The Spencer Epoch*, Terence's *Hesyra*, Varro's *Rerum Rusticarum*, Virgil's *Georgics*, Book 1, Various Vocabularies.

23. A most useful and acceptable addition has recently been made to Henshaw's Blind Asylum, in the form of a Holiday Camp, consisting of a Bungalow Cabin, two large bell tents, and full equipment for twelve persons. The Camp is situated on the Lower Ridge, Marple, Cheshire, and overlooks the valley of the Goyt, with its historic Roman Bridge and Lakes. The scenery is unsurpassed, and the air magnificent.

Several of the young men, technical pupils of the Institution, who have not desirable homes, spent a most delightful summer holiday there, various members of the staff taking charge in turns, and it is intended to send all the male pupils, in batches, to spend week-ends there when the weather is fine.

The Camp and equipment were purchased by the Superintendent, through subscriptions collected by him, and presented to the Board of Management.

24. Mr. James Gresham, who has been for many years a kind friend to Henshaw's Blind Asylum, has just presented to the Board of Management his late residence, "Oak Bank," and land sufficient for the erection of commodious and up-to-date workshops. The gift is rendered more valuable on account of its close proximity to the Parent Institution, and the very considerable amount of building materials included. The Board of Management are deeply grateful to their generous benefactor.

25. Particulars as to the causes of blindness of the 99 pupils who have entered the kindergarten school of the Birmingham

Royal Institution for the Blind since it was opened, have been kindly sent us by the Secretary, and it appears that 40 went blind from ophthalmia neonatorum, 17 from atrophy of optic nerve, 9 from keratitis, 6 from nystagmus, and the remaining 28 from various other diseases. At the present time 16 out of the 39 pupils, or 41%, have become blind from ophthalmia neonatorum.

26. The *Weekly Summary for the Blind* will shortly issue their Christmas Price List of cards, etc., in Braille type for the Blind. They are publishing a Calendar for 1914 with quotations from Ruskin's works for every month: the twelfth series of their popular "Day by Day," which has a text and devotional reading for every day for a month, the twelve series, published since 1901, make a complete text-book for a year. Their special novelty this season is a pretty book-mark worked on perforated card in silk, with a text or appropriate quotation in Braille, and mounted on ribbon. They have, in addition, Christmas cards and games in Braille. Price Lists can be obtained from the Editor of the *Weekly Summary for the Blind*, Shere, Surrey.

27. The Norman Lord Dinner is to be held on 25th inst. It will be remembered that the late Miss Edith Lord left £1,000 to Gardner's Trust for the Blind, the interest of which is to be applied in giving a dinner to 200 blind persons in October each year. Since Miss Lord's death, the dinner has been kindly provided by her sister, Mrs. Hamilton, who will still continue her interest in, and assistance to, the dinner, but the responsibility and organization now devolve on the Trust, as the legacy has been paid.

28. Can any reader kindly send Miss Moon, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton, a copy of No. 51 of *The Blind*, in order to complete her set. This number has been out of print for some time.

29. In the summer of last year, Mr. J. Perez Mendoza paid a visit of some weeks to this country in order to ascertain what

was being done for the Blind, having previously inspected many of the Institutions for the Blind in the United States of America. Subsequently he went to the principal Institutions on the Continent. Mr. Mendoza came from the Argentine Republic, as he is most anxious that something should be done for the 8,000 blind people there. At present there is only one small school in Buenos Ayres with a few pupils, and nothing else is done for this afflicted class. On his return to the Argentine, Mr. Mendoza prepared an extensive scheme for bettering the Blind, and the draft in Spanish was submitted to us, and through us to Lady Campbell for criticism. This scheme has now been presented to the Argentine Government by the Deputies Messrs. Agote and Carranza. Its purpose is that the Government should take measures for preventing blindness and should purchase land near Buenos Ayres and erect thereon a large National Institution, where there would be a kindergarten, schools for the normal and for the weakminded, workshops, printing press, etc. It was our pleasure to see a good deal of Mr. Mendoza when he was in England, and knowing as we do his earnest desire to benefit the neglected Blind of his country, we wish him all success, and hope that his strenuous efforts may bear fruit, and that his scheme—an excellent and comprehensive one, which assists the Blind from the cradle to the grave—may soon become law. The editor was sheep-farming some thirty years ago, 200 miles south of Buenos Ayres, and he well remembers how blind beggars used to come to his ranch on horseback! and there was one blind man, a neighbour, who was so looked up to for his wisdom about horses, that he was always appealed to in difficulties!

30. In our last number, paragraph 12, we referred to Mrs. Fowler's and Miss Howard's visit to this country. The Report of the Uniform Type Committee, which is rather long and most interesting, is now published, and is printed *in extenso* for those who are interested in the question, in the Summer Number of that excellent quarterly magazine *Outlook for the Blind*. We hope our readers subscribe to this magazine, of

which the editor is Mr. C. F. F. Campbell, Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A., or will buy a copy of the Summer Number, and then a subscription will inevitably follow.

31. We have received from the United States of America the following paragraph for insertion in *The Blind*, but our readers are well aware that telephony has been taught to the Blind in England for many years, and several blind persons are employed as telephonists and give complete satisfaction. Telephoning was first taught to the Blind at the Royal Institution for the Blind at Birmingham in 1906, and we well remember about that time being shewn the apparatus and the process of instruction.

"Another channel of employment for the Blind has been discovered. In Baltimore, Maryland, recently, an experiment was made with a blind girl as telephone operator at one of the exchanges. Her work was so good and she was so accurate and careful that the telephone company decided to secure other girls from the Maryland School for the Blind. There are now a number of these sightless operators being employed in Baltimore, and they not only give satisfaction, but are declared to be superior to girls possessed of their sight, and the managers believe that the field of work can be opened to many others. It is almost pathetic to see the eagerness with which the blind girls take up this work. It puts them into touch with the world, and large numbers have applied for the privilege of being telephone girls."

We understand that the most difficult board now operated in the United States by blind girls is that at the Young Women's Christian Association. The association club and home have 200 rooms and eight pay stations, and the blind operators are as accurate and quick as other girl operators.

32. The National Lending Library for the Blind in Washington, U.S.A., is making much headway under Miss E. J. Giffin, the able director. This library is the outcome of a leaflet "A Plea for a Universal Library for the Blind," which

was issued by the National Lending Library in this country. The purpose of the Washington Library is "transcribing of books into Braille by the Blind, primarily in their own homes throughout the country, secondarily in the library headquarters. Circulation of these books within States and between States. International circulation and exchange of books." The choice of books is left to a National Committee on literature, and lists are exchanged between the libraries—those in England included. The industries of the home-bound Blind are limited, and therefore the object of the Library is "Home work with volunteer home reader," development of the individual, and work done by the Blind for the Blind.

33. An excellent and carefully drawn up handbook containing information relating to statistics and Schools, Missions, Hospitals, Charities and other Institutions for the Deaf has been compiled by the National Bureau for promoting the general welfare of the Deaf, 104, High Holborn, London, W.C. The price is 6d. This is the first complete directory for the varied national and local agencies for the betterment of the deaf of this country that has been available up to the present time. The directory will be found most useful to those who are interested in the deaf.

THE LIVERPOOL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

By the late Rev. T. W. M. LUND, M.A.

Before the year 1790 there was no School for the Blind in England. In that year a movement was inaugurated in Liverpool, which after little more than a century has not only planted many similar Institutions all over the civilised world, but has secured for the Blind an education on a par with that of the sighted people, as far as their depleted range of faculties permits.

The origin of the Liverpool School for the Blind is a romance. Whenever there is a crying evil to be remedied, and

a great good to be done, some one is sent from God for the purpose, whether it be a John the Baptist, a Martin Luther, or an Edward Rushton. In this case it was Edward Rushton, a lad who went to sea in 1766 in the employ of Messrs. Watt and Gregson, at the age of ten. The character of the boy may be gleaned from his intrepidity and confidence in a terrific storm, when the Captain and crew gave themselves up for lost, and the youth of sixteen took the helm, restored presence of mind to his comrades and saved the ship. A little later, a negro to whom he had shown kindness, sacrificed his life for Rushton, an act of devotion, which made him the champion of an oppressed race for the rest of his life. The ways of Providence are strange, the links in the chain of circumstance marvellous. It was this self-sacrifice of the negro Quanima that built the School. For in repaying his debt to the black man, which Rushton did with interest, he lost his own sight, a trial, which instead of leaving him faithless and desperate, only set him upon new and larger fields of philanthropy.

During a voyage in an American slaver, ophthalmia broke out among the blacks, to whom none of the crew would run the risk of ministering, and who were flung overboard as useless lumber as soon as they became hopelessly blind. Rushton alone succoured the unfortunate victims, and paid the penalty by the contraction of the disease, which left him totally blind for thirty years. It is a relief to know, that in 1805 his sight was partially restored by the skill of a Manchester oculist, Gibson by name.

The limits of space forbid me to tell here how this iron man refused to be beaten, and fought his way to a position of respect and influence, which he used in the redress of the Slave Trade, in sympathy with the French people in their struggle for liberty, and at last in the improvement of the position of the needy Blind.

In 1790 the Marine Society declined to accept small donations. It occurred to Rushton that the small donations despised by the Marine Society might be secured for an Institution in aid of the many forlorn blind people in Liverpool.

He prepared two Letters on the subject, which, as printing was costly, were circulated in manuscript by the energy of a blind man named Robert Lowe. The first Letter painted the misfortune of blindness, while the second sketched a plan for its relief. The scheme took the form of a Benefit Club for the Blind, which was to supply a weekly allowance for the Sick and Superannuated. One suggestion begets another, and John Christie, a blind musician, supplemented Rushton's idea by the proposal of a modest School for gratuitous Musical Instruction, with a view to rendering the Blind self-supporting. He and his brother volunteered their services. The Rev. H. Daunett, Incumbent of St. John's, invited Rushton and his friends, Rev. J. Smyth, Messrs. Carson, Lowe, and Christie, to meet at his house, when it was resolved to promote, jointly, the schemes of the two blind men. These are the beginnings of The School for the Blind, and all Schools for the Blind. Work was initiated in Commutation Row in two modest houses knocked into one, which gave place in 1800 to an Institution in London Row, of considerable capacity for resident pupils. Displaced in 1851 by the L. & N. W. R. Co's Station, it was rebuilt in Hardman Street, where it now stands.

The Chapel was not built until 1819, when it came into being under a special Act of Parliament. It is said to be an exact copy in its dimensions of the Temple of Zeus Pan-Hellenius in the Island of Ægina.

The Doric Portico was approached by a handsome flight of steps in imitation of the prototype. When, however, in 1850, the Chapel was removed stone by stone to its present position, this impressive feature had to be lopped off, owing, it would seem, to the niggardliness of the Corporation of the period in not granting sufficient land for the due set-back of the Chapel. Consequently, Liverpool has been deprived of a really fine example of Greek Art, and we have in its place the maimed effect, which offends our artistic sense every time we pass down Hardman Street. Strange, that such care was used in the removal of each stone, with such barbarous disregard of the feature, which gave its character to the whole.

The singing of the Blind in this Chapel was for more than half a century a traditional trait of Liverpool Church Life. The Chapel at once became popular, and its pews were taken by the rank and fashion of the town. Hardly one well-known name is absent from its records of last century. Those palmy days have gone. The wealthy citizens of Liverpool long ago moved out into the suburbs, where new Churches were built, and good Musical Services instituted. With one or two exceptions, the old families who attended the Chapel, have died out or removed far afield. The Chapel is left stranded without a Parish on which to draw legitimately for a congregation, among a town population amply supplied with Churches. However, it still holds its own, with fair congregations, and a Musical Service, that has never been surpassed in its history. During its life time of twenty-six years it has handed over to the School for the Blind a surplus income amounting to £12,000.

There are some beautiful works of art in the Chapel, for example, a font of very graceful design, the gift of Admiral and Mrs. Gough; a pulpit and candelabrum in imitation of the Paschal candlestick familiar in Byzantine and Romanesque churches, sculptured to tell the tale of Evolution, a thank offering from Mrs. W. D. Mack, who died the very day after the gift was made; a marble prayer desk, the gift of her children in memory of their father, who was for some years a most devoted chapel-warden, who is also commemorated by some choice marble work in the sanctuary, a recognition by the worshippers. But the crowning feature is to be found in the series of Mosaics, which depict Christ as the Light of the World, illuminating and inspiring men and women with the ideals and aims, which through the centuries have made for the progress, physical, intellectual and spiritual, of the human race. Of the sixteen figures introduced, each bears its appropriate symbol, that of Edward Rushton being a ship to indicate the episode, which, in the mysterious working of Providence, issued in such blessings to the Blind. It may be interesting to say here, that his son, Edward Rushton, was for many years Stipendiary Magistrate of Liverpool; that his

grandson, William Lowes Rushton, the eminent Shakesperean, is still among us ; while his great grandson, a third Edward Rushton, bids fair, as a most promising naval officer, to add new glories to the name.

Naturally, the employments open to the Blind are limited. Only those can be undertaken with success, in which the sensitiveness of the finger tips can replace to a sufficient extent the power of sight. The traditional occupations are mat-making, basket work, chair-caning, music, and piano tuning. These can be done by the Blind independently. Brush-making is an excellent and lucrative trade for them, but the use of hot pitch and fire necessitates the aid of a sighted person ; hence it is best undertaken by a community of workers. Mattress-making can also be made profitable, but needs sighted guidance. As the institution is a school and not an asylum, those trades are taught, which the Blind are best able to prosecute, when left to their own resources. The strain of competition with the superior faculties of the sighted makes it hard for the Blind, however ^agifted and industrious, to earn a livelihood. Of the hundreds who have passed through the school, but a small percentage have been able entirely to maintain themselves. Still, many have been enabled to do something towards self-maintenance, enough, at any rate, to lift them out of the depression into which pauperism plunges an aspiring soul, or to save them from sinking into the unambitious apathy and willing dependence, which so easily become the bane of less noble minds, whether blind or sighted. One of our best developments during the last few years, has been the inauguration of a fund for the assistance of deserving pupils after leaving the School. To this purpose the interest upon a sum of about £3,000 is devoted, raised by the efforts of the ex-President, Mr. H. W. Deacon. The administration of the fund is carefully safeguarded so as to avoid pauperization. Grants are made for the purchase of tools or materials, by which the recipients may be helped to work. Thus the benefaction is valueless to all but workers. It has proved a great boon in

helping many old pupils to turn their training to good account, and to retain their freedom.

Perhaps nothing has done more for the Blind than the Act of Parliament for their Compulsory Education passed in 1893. Hitherto, only those had received any education at all, whose parents had the will or the means to give it. Now, no blind child ought to escape the net or fail to be swept into one of the Schools provided for it. Simultaneously with the passing of the Act, the School became certified under Government, and within a short time the fine building at Wavertree, devoted to children alone, was finished at a cost of nearly £30,000, thanks to public generosity, inspired by the initial gift of £10,000 from the munificent hand of Miss Hornby. Here, eighty children are daily having their faculties developed with such rapidity and thoroughness, that they may almost be said to be receiving their sight. Too much praise can never be given to the patience and sympathy spent in their education. It opens out a new world to them, and transforms life from a sinister blank to an experience of intelligent interest. To see these children at their lessons is to see pretty much what would meet the eye in any Elementary School. To see them at their play brings home the exceeding pathos of their limitations. There is a Master of Games, who not only gives physical instruction in the admirably equipped Gymnasium, but teaches football, cricket, and running along a specially prepared track. Even gardening is prosecuted with much industry and pleasure. One sad feature is the number of defectives who come into the school, though sadder still is the case of those, who are deaf as well as blind. A visit to the school, and the contemplation of defects like these, would furnish a salutary lesson to the many, who in the midst of the wealth of life are discontented with their lot.

The blind children from time to time give excellent entertainments, in which music, drama, and recitation play a large part. Those also are happy evenings, on which similar pleasures are provided for them by friends from outside.

At the age of sixteen, pupils pass out from the Elementary

School at Wavertree, and may then be admitted to the Technical Institution in Hardman Street, where they can learn a trade, and be in some degree equipped for making a partial livelihood, and acquiring an interest in life, which the power to do some sort of work always gives. This is the answer to those who complain, that it is a waste of money to educate, at considerable cost to the State, people who can seldom wholly maintain themselves. At any rate they are enabled to do something towards their own maintenance, while their elevation into the realm of normal humanity with its interests, ambitions, and pleasures is a large asset in the account.

It may be well to correct here one or two popular fallacies about the Blind. It is frequently said, what wonderful compensations the Blind have. It is absolutely untrue that blindness is accompanied by an immediate or certain development of powers, which did not exist before. It is quite true, that with the lapse of time there may come quickened hearing, more acute sensitiveness of touch, and greater concentration of thought, but such compensations only grow slowly by use, experience, and education. It is only by the whetstone of careful training, that a new and keen edge of life is put upon the bodily and mental powers, so as to mitigate, one dare not say supply, the loss of eyes.

There are people credulous enough to believe, that musical ability developes as the result of blindness. A nightingale in the throat is supposed to be the prompt requital for the loss of eyes. But blindness never yet gave a voice to the voiceless. That is one of the many popular superstitions, which die hard. Music in the Blind is an achievement, which represents untold drudgery, incessant work, and dauntless patience on the part of both pupil and teacher. In a world where five senses often seem inadequate for efficiency, how can we suppose four will do as well? "It is a long time before you learn to be blind," was the shrewd criticism of an expert, to be kept to the front of our mind when we think of this subject. Whatever compensation the Blind can have, has to be given. It certainly does not come naturally, and if this compensation is to be really

given, we ought not only to begin at the earliest time, but use the best possible method, and the best possible instruments.

Blindness deprives its victims of at least twenty-five per cent of normal vitality. Therefore, the first thing is to make their bodies strong and healthy by every means at our command, especially by nutritious food, pure air and regular exercise. Every window, that can let light into their minds, ought to be flung wide open. And so those, who control the destinies of the Blind, ought to have far less regard for £ s. d. and what is commonly called economy, than for the services and surveillance of guides and teachers, whose own culture of thought and feeling is of the best. For this would give a guarantee, that for a few years at least, the Blind will live in the presence of a sympathy, an influence and an inspiration most ennobling to their mental and moral nature.

This sketch of the School for the Blind would be more incomplete than it ought to be, were no mention made of the numerous instances of alleviation of suffering and even recovery of sight to which it has led. Not a few victims of blindness have blessed the day of their admission to this Institution, because it brought them into contact with the sympathetic treatment of skilled surgery, which spared no time, pains, or patience, to restore to them some glimpse of the light of day. Its Honorary Oculist, Mr. G. E. Walker, F.R.C.S., may fairly be described as the Nestor of the Institution, since his long connection with it has made him the beloved counsellor and friend of many generations of grateful pupils. To have won the trust, gratitude, and love of these afflicted people is the sole reward for devoted service that the Medical Staff receives ; but it is given in full measure and most of all to the one, whose many years of generous enthusiasm have made him a household word among the Blind.

Another name deserves record. It is that of Mr. W. D. Hall, who, for twenty-five years, was the Teacher of Music in the School and Organist in the Chapel. He raised Music among the Blind to a very high pitch of efficiency, but his finest achievement lay in the wonderful moral and refining influence

exerted in his daily contact with his pupils. In the memory of the writer of this article, a beautiful aureole surrounds those twenty-five years of patient drudgery. A magic charm of atmosphere gradually enveloped the tenants of the Music Room. No one could frequent it without acquiring some grace and redressing some fault. "Hall's Pupils" were a class to themselves just by reason of the indefinable tone, with which the master inspired them. It was a striking object lesson for all, to whom the training of the Blind was entrusted. It is not the occasional sermon or formal counsel, that refines and elevates the mental aim and moral sense so much as the atmosphere, intimate and persuasive, created by the personality of those who have their life in constant care.

The multiplication of charitable institutions tends to diminish the support given to those which were founded in the days of less competition. It is plain from the Archives of the School for the Blind, that it was once the darling of the city, the idol of philanthropic zeal. There are many tokens, that it had a vogue, of which the signs to-day are comparatively few. Yet the Blind are with us still : their needs are just as clamant, and until the State entirely accepts the responsibility of their education and training, no rival claims should lessen public sympathy with their misfortune.

Large orders for baskets, seat-caning, and repairs to bedding are often executed for fruiterers, shippers and others. The pupils receive a small premium upon all work done by them. To-day no less than in the age when "Job" was written, is it a factor in the character of the perfect citizen to be in some one of many possible ways "Eyes to the Blind."

Since this article was written in 1905, the writer has passed away. The Rev. T. W. M. Lund had been Chaplain to the School for upwards of twenty-nine years, and during this long period had done much to aid the work of the Institution, and to bring happiness to the pupils. His death was a serious loss, not only to the school but to the intellectual life of the

city, and he will long be missed as an eloquent and earnest preacher.

Death has also taken Miss M. L. Hornby, whose kind and sympathetic heart was always warm towards the Blind. The interest she took in all things relating to their welfare is generally known; and to this school, in particular to the childrens' part of it, she shewed a wealth of affection and an unbounded generosity that won the respect and admiration of all who knew her.

The Hon. Oculist, Mr. George E. Walker, has also died. He had worked for the School for 35 years, and many a blind pupil deeply felt his loss. The pupils subscribed their pence and presented the Committee with an enlarged photograph of Mr. Walker to hang in the Committee Room, as a mark of their respect and gratitude.

The School in Hardman Street is available for those, who, losing their sight comparatively late in life, are by their age excluded from most Institutions. It appeared desirable to provide separate living accommodation for the elder men, and a house close to the school and conveniently situated for purposes of supervision, was taken as an experiment. Here twelve men live and attend the school daily to receive instruction in the trade they are learning. The experiment has now been tried for more than two years, and has proved completely successful.

COLLEGE OF TEACHERS OF THE BLIND.

At the request of the Council of the College we print a complete list of Certificate Holders with the Honours gained since the College was founded. The names marked with an asterisk are of those who took their Certificates at the examination held last May:—

Names.	Honours.
1. Adams, Annie L.,	Practical Teaching, Braille Music.
2. Adams, Hannah Nellie,	Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Braille, Music.
3. Balls, Mary L.,	Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Hand Knitting.
4. Bartlett, Clara E.,	Arithmetic.

5. Bell, Frances, Theoretical Braille.
6. Boyland, Fanny.
7. Brady, Emma, Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic
8. Cash, Howard.
9. Chapple, Alfred G., Practical Braille, Arithmetic.
10. Comrie, Alice C. M., Arithmetic.
11. Cowan, Archibald A., Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.
12. Creed, Mabel, Arithmetic, Hand Knitting.
13. Crocker, Joseph, Practical Braille, Theoretical Braille.
14. Dyson, Marian, Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Kindergarten, Physical Training.
15. Emblen, John R., Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic.
16. Emmott, Hannah E., Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Manual Work.
17. Evans, Edward, Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Physical Training, History.
18. Fairclough, Paul.
19. Falconer, Jessie I., Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Chair Caning.
20. Finlay, Annie, Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.
21. Fitzsimmons, Eliza, Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic.
22. Fletcher, Ethel, Practical Braille, Arithmetic.
- *23. Fricke, Wilhelmina D., Practical Teaching, History.
24. Gardner, Mary E., Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.
25. Gledhill, Ernest, History.
26. Gray, Edith M., Practical Braille.
27. Gray, Patrick, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Typewriting.
- *28. Halpin, Dora.
29. Hawkins, Lilian A., Hand Knitting.
30. Hewitt, Francis E., Practical Braille, Arithmetic, History.
- *31. Hodgson, Norah, Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic.
32. Illingworth, J. Stewart, Theoretical Braille, History.
33. Ingleby, Annie E., Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic.
34. Jones, Cecil V. H., Arithmetic, Typewriting.
35. Jones Edith M. J., Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Braille Music.
36. Kellaway, Bessie, Arithmetic, History.
37. Laidlaw, Adam, J., Arithmetic.
38. Laing, Reginald E., Arithmetic, Typewriting, History.
39. Laycock, Agnes E.

40. Lester, Mary V., Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Physical Training,
41. Lilley A. Janet, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Hand Knitting.
42. Littleton, Elsie, Practical Braille, Arithmetic.
43. Livesey, Jessie L., Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Practical Teaching.
44. Lloyd, Bertram D., Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.
- *45. Lyons, Catherine, Arithmetic.
46. Lockett, Jane E.
47. Marland, Florence E., Practical Braille, Arithmetic.
48. Matta, Mabel H., Practical Teaching.
- *49. McCarthy, Mary.
50. McKendrick, Susie G., Arithmetic.
51. Moorby, Annie F., Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Chair Caning,
52. Morley, E. Ethel, Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Physical Training.
53. Morris, Margaret, Arithmetic.
54. Northcombe, Douglas, W.
55. Page, Sydney Catherine, Hand Knitting.
56. Paul, John.
57. Pearce, Annie E., Kindergarten.
58. Pearce, Elsie D., Theoretical Braille, Practical Teaching.
- *59. Phillips, Reginald C.
60. Pinnington, Alice E., Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Practical Teaching.
- *61. Plant, Ethel M., Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic.
62. Potter, Winifred A., Arithmetic, History.
63. Preedy, Nellie B., Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Practical Teaching, Kindergarten.
64. Radford, Gertrude E. M., Beadwork and Clay Modelling.
65. Ridley, Ethel M., Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, Machine Knitting.
66. Ritchie, John M., Arithmetic, Practical Teaching, History.
67. Robb, David P. B., Theoretical Braille, Practical Teaching.
68. Robinson, Sydney, Arithmetic.
69. Samuels, Maude, Arithmetic, Beadwork, and Clay Modelling.
70. Schofield, Phoebe, Practical Teaching.
- *71. Sellers, Edith C., Theoretical Braille.
72. Shepherd, Annie G., Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, History.

73. Smith, Clara E. C., Chair Caning.
74. Smith, Lister S., Practical Braille, Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, History.
75. Spencer, Charles H., Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille.
76. Stevens, Samuel E., Practical Braille, Arithmetic, History.
77. Stiles, Florence F., Practical Braille, Arithmetic.
- *78. Thomas, Gladys, Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Physical Training.
79. Tivey, Charles F., Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Moon.
80. Tucker, William, Arithmetic.
81. Walden, Herbert G., Theoretical Braille.
82. Walker, Jean M., Arithmetic.
83. Warburton, Edith B.
- *84. Webster, Louie C., Practical Teaching, Kindergarten.
85. Wigg, Lily R., Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.
86. Wilburn, Caroline, Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Braille Music.
87. Williams, Emily.
88. Wright, Dorothy A., Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.
89. Wright, Emily, Practical Teaching, Hand Knitting.
90. Wright, Sarah L., Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.

Examination.	Total number of entrants.	Number who sat at previous examinations.	Number who gained Certificates.
1908	33	—	7
1909	32	13	19
1910	37	10	17
1911	37	13	23
1912	25	11	14
(2 Certificate holders sat for Honours)			
1913	19	2	10
			—
			90
			—

Sunday, 26th October, will be the centenary of the birth of Henry Smart, the celebrated Organist and Composer, 1813-1879. After holding two or three other posts, he became organist in 1864 of the Parish Church of St. Pancras, and shortly afterwards went blind, but his musical career suffered no interruption.

ALFRED HIRST.

Born March 8th, 1845.

Died August 29th, 1913.

It is with a heavy heart, and an overpowering sense of the loss both to personal friendship and the cause of the Blind, that we take up our pen to record the passing on of Alfred Hirst to "behold the land that is very far off," and to yet higher service. In this remarkable man's character there seemed to meet all that is most worthy and most admirable, whether as son, husband, father, lover of his country and her true welfare, and pre-eminently lover of the fellow creatures stricken, like himself, by the loss of the most precious sense of sight. It is almost with awe, certainly with reverence and wonder, that one contemplates the heights to which such a character rose—not, oh not, be it carefully remembered, by easy and pleasant stages, but by long years of hard effort, toil and pain, the "strong crying and tears," the "going on his way weeping and bearing forth good seed" that have doubtless now brought the labourer to his home, coming again with joy, and bringing his sheaves with him.

We can only alas! give the slightest and shortest sketch of this fruitful life, but the deeds that he accomplished speak for themselves, and it must be a poor and deficient imagination indeed that cannot fill in the details of his strenuous work. His was no "armchair philanthropy," nor passing over of small duties to grasp at the larger and more showy ones, but everything was faithfully done to the best of his ability, and the weak and helpless cry of the afflicted appealed to him with as great or greater power than some magnificent achievement of philanthropy that should redound to his personal honour and glory. Now let us examine in brief the details of this life.

Alfred Hirst was born at Huddersfield in Yorkshire, and educated at the College there. He early showed that zest for ever learning which was so marked a characteristic in later life, and on leaving the College carried away the medal for mathematics. He was keen also on hunting, shooting, and cricket, and distinguished himself by steady excellence in the latter truly

English game. The son of a wool stapler in a large way of business, he was sent to Australia to gain experience among flocks and herds under an elder brother, who was on a large "run" there. He returned home in three years time, but it may be noted here that seven years after losing his sight he went to Australia again, bought 10,000 bales of wool, and managed his own shipping, banking, etc., without other help than that of his Secretary. At the early age of 23 he married Miss Mary Wrigley, and when 28 years old was first attacked by that dread disease, atrophy of the optic nerve, from which he finally became totally blind. It will doubtless be of great interest to our readers if we quote what he wrote about his own blindness in *The Sunday Magazine* of April 19th, 1897, in an article entitled "My Dark World," subsequently published as a pamphlet:—"Twenty-two years have passed, twenty-two summers and the length of twenty-two long winters since I became 'dark amid the blaze of noon.' I remember well the day and place when and where I first discovered that there was something amiss with the sight of my right eye. It was on a farm near Sandsend, forming part of the Mulgrave estate, and it was September 1st, 1873. . . . I drove along to meet the shooting party of which I was to form one. . . . Arrived at the appointed rendezvous I found that we were to begin the day's sport by walking through a field of standing barley. I had not proceeded far when with the well-known sound so delightful to the ears of the sportsman a covey rose, and raising my gun and closing my left eye, I found that instead of seeing as usual almost every feather, a 'dim suffusion veiled' the sight of my right eye, and I could barely distinguish the brown patch made by the startled partridges. . . . I did my best for the remainder of that day, and before leaving Whitby the next morning, to continue the shooting, I visited an optician, but found that none of his glasses were of the slightest avail. I then became somewhat alarmed, and a few days after went to London to consult specialists. . . . It was at this time that I first heard of that terrible disease known as amaurosis, or atrophy of the optic nerve.

A year later as I was walking down the long drive which led to my house, and whilst swinging my umbrella, I became suddenly aware that something was wrong with my left eye. I tested it on the spot. Holding the umbrella perpendicularly by its middle at arm's length, and looking right ahead parallel with the ground, I found that as I raised the umbrella the handle suddenly came into view as if emerging out of Cimmerian darkness. I had only half an eye left, and, in spite of frantic efforts (sometimes, I think, because of them), the faces of those I loved became more and more indistinct, and by Christmas Day, 1874, I was practically blind." Nevertheless, he continued the wool stapling business, carefully educating himself to be as expert in it with his hands as he had once been with his eyes, until, on his return voyage from the achievement related above, protracted sea sickness unfortunately set up an internal disorder from which he was never afterwards free, and which finally entailed his retirement from business. He went to live first for some years at Harrogate, then at Ruswarp, near Whitby, and from that time on never ceased to devote himself to the welfare of the Blind, eagerly informing himself as to the best methods in their education or other forms of assistance, and sparing no pains in thought or action that could advance their true interests. Two great factors in the usefulness, and may we not say the happiness of his life, must be noticed here. He learnt Braille in 1876, which to him became literally *Lux in Tenebris*, and its acquisition led to his introduction to and forming a life-long friendship with Dr. T. R. Armitage, the man whom, above all others, the "blind" world delights to honour, and whose universally bestowed title "The Friend of the Blind" might well be the envy of the highest placed in this world.

While in the neighbourhood of Whitby, Mr. Hirst founded a workshop for the Blind, of which he wrote a graphic account in the first number of *The Blind*, January, 1898, and subsequently created a fund for granting pensions to blind persons resident in Whitby. With his type-writing machine he frequently wrote articles for different newspapers, chiefly on the respective

schemes for educating and giving employment to the Blind. In the latter years of his life he removed to Saffron Walden on account of his health, but his interest in the Blind was as active there as it had been when he resided near Whitby, and those deprived of the gift of sight soon had reason to bless his coming among them. Here, as at Whitby, he largely assisted the Blind out of his private means, and also obtained assistance for them from other sources.

There can surely be none among those who enjoyed the privilege of Mr. Hirst's friendship who would not recall with delight the pleasure of the hours passed in conversation with him. He had an almost unique memory for things he had seen, heard, or read, and this, coupled with his keen love for literature of the best and highest kind, made him a companion never to be forgotten. He especially delighted in English poetry, Milton and Wordsworth being his favourites. Who can tell how many hours of darkness, not only of his own, but of many weary ones who came to him for sympathy and help, were lightened by the fervour of this intense and passionate mind, able from its own resources to bring healing and comfort to others treading, like himself, the darkened path?

We cannot close this short obituary notice without referring to her whom, when speaking to intimate friends, he always lovingly called "The Incomparable." We may not intrude on family sanctities, and so great a loss seems pre-eminently ground whereon even angels may fear to tread, but our deep and heartfelt sympathy with his sorrowing family must be expressed and will, we trust, be accepted as a slight and inadequate tribute to him who has gone from among us. Long will it be before his special gifts in dealing with the Blind can be replaced, and wide is the gap which the loss of those gifts has left.

At a meeting of the Committee of the North of England Union of all Agencies for the Blind, held at the Institution for the Blind, Leeds, on September 11th, the following Resolution was passed:—

"The members of this Union, on behalf of the Blind in the North of England and of all engaged in work on their

behalf, record with deep regret the death of the late Mr. Alfred Hirst. The remembrance of a blind man ever ready to cheer others, to mitigate suffering, and to advise those who work together for the common good of their blind neighbours, is an incentive to perseverance; but the presence of a blind man who (like John Milton) fulfilled his determination not to 'bate one jot of heart and hope, but still bear up and steer right onward,' is an inspiration to all around him.

Such was Mr. Alfred Hirst; and the Chairman is requested to send a copy of this Resolution to Mrs. Hirst with the respectful condolences of this meeting."

On September 12th, at the King's Manor House, York, the Committee of the Yorkshire School for the Blind resolved as follows:—

"In recording the lamented death of the late Mr. Alfred Hirst this Committee realize with deep regret the passing away of a great Yorkshireman who, by his patient endurance of his affliction and his constant zeal for the welfare of the Blind, has strengthened the Wilberforce Memorial and brought others to its support, while ever ready himself to advise those who (both here and elsewhere) work together for the welfare of the Blind.

The Committee also wish to express their respectful sympathy with Mrs. Hirst and family in their great loss."

In order to commemorate the great services rendered to the cause of the Blind, and in affection for Mr. Hirst's memory, a few friends have agreed to collect funds for the Pension Society founded by him in Whitby, which he had very much at heart. Contributions can be sent to Lady Campbell, Windermere, Church Road, Upper Norwood, S.E.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SHERE, SURREY.

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Sept. 1st, 1913.

May I ask you kindly to make known through your columns a new method of teaching those who have gone blind late in

life to read Braille quickly and easily. The method was invented by Lady Algernon Percy, whose name is no doubt known to many of your readers for her activities on behalf of the Blind—and more especially, on behalf of the deaf Blind.

Not so long ago she heard of a poor man living in Leamington, who was going Blind. He was a journeyman tailor till his sight failed; then he took to pulling a bath-chair, but that occupation came to an abrupt end, when one day, the poor fellow, too blind to see some obstacle in his path, upset his bath-chair, and the old lady who was his fare, fortunately with no more serious consequences than some injured dignity. Hearing of this man's sadness and depression, as he felt the darkness slowly closing in upon him, and of his listless weariness in the long unoccupied hours, Lady Algernon Percy determined to lighten his burden by teaching him to read.

As she is herself an invalid, she was obliged to teach him by correspondence, and for this purpose she devised a plan. She had the ordinary alphabet cut out in wooden letters and on them she had the equivalent Braille letters dotted out in round-headed tacks. Her pupil was familiar with the form of ordinary letters, and soon learnt to feel the large dots and to remember their form; Braille letters of the usual size used in books were printed on cardboard and also pasted on the wooden letters, so that he practised reading these by touch at the same time.

Fully aware of the discouragement which comes from trying to learn too much at once, Lady Algernon Percy sent her pupil the first seven letters of the alphabet only, and waited till he had thoroughly learned them before she sent him the next seven letters, and so on. When all the letters were learnt, she supplied him with the punctuation signs. In six weeks her pupil read uncontracted Braille fluently; and he is now learning the many word signs and contractions which are used in ordinary Braille literature, to save space in printing, and fatigue in reading.

She devised another help—a pretty old fashioned sampler was worked in cross-stitch with the Braille letters under the

ordinary alphabet; this was pinned on the cottage wall, and enabled the hard-working wife when she was at her washing or cooking to help her husband at his "lessons" without leaving off her work, by simply glancing up and telling him the letter that was puzzling him, when he described its form.

Lady Algernon Percy's device, soon became an interesting game, gaily played by all the members of the little household. A box of Braille letters on cardboard and a frame with round pegs on which words and sentences could be marked out added to the variety of the interests. The blind man learnt to read by touch the letters on the sampler; and on his birthday his wife laid on his plate at breakfast the touching message, worked in cross-stitch on a square of canvas: "A Happy Birthday." "He will never leave thee nor forsake thee." A "surprise" which gave unbounded delight to the recipient.

No doubt there will be some who will say: "What's the good of all this? Much better teach him a useful trade." The trade was not forgotten. He has already been taught to net string bags, which bring in a small remuneration; and other handicrafts will follow. But the "use" of the Braille is that it roused the poor fellow from a despairing apathy, which, if it had continued, would have effectually prevented him from learning any handicraft, and might have led to his falling into melancholia.

Finally, it laid open to this unfortunate—debarred from his active employments—the world of literature. So complete was the success of her experiment that Lady Algernon Percy felt that it might be of incalculable use to others as unfortunate as her pupil, and, like him, too far from any "Blind Institute" to be taught there.

Arrangements have been made for making the alphabets and samplers; and they can be obtained at a small price from the Editor of "*The Weekly Summary for the Blind*," Shere, Surrey.

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Editor of "*The Weekly Summary for the Blind*,"

E. R. SCOTT.



THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY FOR THE BLIND

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 65.

JANUARY 20TH, 1914.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before **March 20th**, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. We wish to call the special attention of our readers to the Conference to be held in June next. On page 170 are given some further particulars, and copies of the preliminary circular can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary of the Conference, Mr. Henry Stainsby, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W. A paid Assistant Secretary for Mr. Stainsby has been appointed, and the organization is going on apace. The Great Hall at the Church House, Westminster, is to be given up to the Exhibition and demonstrations of work by the Blind. Mr. Stuart Johnson is Chairman of the Exhibition Committee, and intends the Exhibition to be the biggest show of work actually done by the Blind ever seen in this country or any other.

2. We regret to have to record the death of Miss Lucy O'Brien on the 2nd of November last. Miss O'Brien was for nearly twenty years a teacher at the Swansea Institution for the Blind, where she did excellent work, and was beloved by teachers and pupils alike. She was trained at the Royal Normal College by assistance from Gardner's Trust for the Blind.

3. The Rev. Canon Hawkins has tendered his resignation as Vicar of St. Cuthbert's Church, Lytham. The resignation

will take effect on the 19th of April next, when he will have been Vicar of the Parish for forty-four years, having been totally blind for the last twenty-two years.

4. The Rev. William H. Jackson. B.A., of the Royal Normal College, Wadham College, Oxford, and Leeds Clergy School, was ordained Priest by the Bishop of St. Albans in his Cathedral on 21st of December.

5. The Committee of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind have appointed their Second Music Master, Mr. H. E. Platt, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of their Head Music Master, Mr. A. R. Gaul, who served on the staff for a period of twenty-seven years. Mr. Platt's abilities are well known in the Musical World of the Blind, and he is the Editor of the *Braille Musical Magazine*. He was trained as a boy at the Birmingham Institution, and has been in close touch with the Institution for something like forty-seven years. Mr. Platt is to be congratulated on his appointment to the highest position in the musical section of the Institution in which he was trained.

6. Miss Sarah Nelson, who has been trained at Henshaw's Blind Asylum as a shorthand writer and typist, was in November last appointed to the position of correspondence clerk in the offices of Messrs. Baxendale and Co., Ltd., Manchester, where we are glad to learn she is giving every satisfaction.

7. Miss Florrie Nicholson, a former pupil of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, who has acted as telephonist for the past six years, has been appointed typist and stenographer in the office of a large firm, and will take up her duties side by side with seeing lady typists.

The appointment was secured in consequence of the extremely satisfactory manner in which a former pupil of the Birmingham Institution performs her duties in a similar capacity, who commenced in the seeing world in November, 1912. This

is a form of encouragement which one greets with hearty appreciation, and goes to prove that the calling of typist and stenographer is quite a suitable one for the intelligent Blind.

8. Mr. Hugh E. Walford has celebrated the completion of twenty-one years' work amongst the Blind at Reading by buying £200 Indian 3½ stock to create a pension to be called the "Coming of Age" pension. This makes the eighteenth pension founded since 1898.

9. The next examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind will be held at Birmingham on 26th, 27th, and 28th of May. Applications from intending candidates should be made forthwith to the Registrar of the College, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

10. The Examination of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships, tenable at the Royal Normal College, will henceforth be held twice a year, in the first week of July and December. Intending candidates should apply for forms of application, and return them not later than 15th June and 15th November, respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

11. We much regret that in the list, published in our last number, of those who hold the certificate of the College of Teachers of the Blind with the Honours gained by each, there were accidental omissions in the returns made to us in regard to the following six teachers, whose full list of Honours is as follows:

4.	Bartlett, Clara E.	Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.
6.	Boylard, Fanny	Arithmetic.
21.	Fitzsimmons, Eliza	Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Practical Teaching.
39.	Laycock, Agnes, E.	Arithmetic.
81.	Walden, Herbert G.	Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Moon's system.
87.	Williams, Emily	Practical Braille, Arithmetic.

We apologise to the Teachers for the omissions, and are sorry that the mistakes occurred.

12. The special article on Schools for the Blind in this number is on the Bristol Royal School of Industry, by the Rev. C. F. Hardy, M.A., Superintendent, and in the next number the article will be on the School for the Indigent Blind at Leatherhead, by the Principal, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., J.P.

13. The Committee of the Barclay Workshop for blind women, 233, Edgware Road, London, W., are offering material for dresses at a reduction of 20% to ladies who will wear, at the Conference to be held in June, dresses of material woven by the Blind.

Lord Manvers, presiding on 10th of October at the annual meeting of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Nottingham, stated that he proposed to have a suit made from material woven by the Blind and to wear it at the next annual meeting.

14. The Committee of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, have decided (a) to pay all contributions for which their blind workers are liable under the Insurance Act, (b) to allow each worker 10/- for the Midsummer and Christmas holiday weeks, and (c) to grant each piece worker 5/- per week over and above what he earns. These benefits will entail an extra annual outlay of nearly £200.

15. The Governors of the Yorkshire School for the Blind have decided to undertake the necessary repairs to the adjacent Manor School Building if, in the event of the school being closed, possession could be secured to them. This decision on the part of the Governors was arrived at by the fact that for several years past they have been required by the Board of Education to enlarge their buildings or acquire another building elsewhere, in order to separate the blind children from the workshops for the adult Blind, and they were advised that this could be done more advantageously and more cheaply by the

acquisition and adaptation of the Manor School for a School for the Blind.

The Crown, to which the Manor School and land revert under certain conditions, has assented to the proposal subject to the following conditions:—(1) that before the release is submitted to the King a new and approved school shall be provided for the Manor School boys, and (2) that plans shall be submitted and approved for the adaptation of the old building for use and occupation by the Blind.

16. A meeting of the Executive Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held on 28th of November, when there were present Lady Campbell, Miss Douglas-Hamilton, Miss Garaway, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth and B. P. Jones, the Hon. A. M. Kinnaird, Messrs. Martin, Pearson, Stainsby (Hon. Registrar), Stone, Thurman, and H. J. Wilson (Chairman).

Letters regretting their inability to attend the meeting were received from Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mrs. Wilton Phipps, Mr. Pine, Dr. Ranger, and Messrs. H. M. Taylor and W. E. Taylor.

It was decided that the next examination be held on 26th, 27th, and 28th of May, at the Royal Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, by kind permission of the Committee of the Institution.

Miss Garaway explained certain suggested modifications in the syllabus for 1914, and on the motion of Mr. Illingworth, seconded by Mr. Jones, it was resolved that the syllabus, as amended, be approved.

The Registrar reported that several applications had been received from teachers for recognition without examination and each case was carefully considered.

It was reported that the Chairman and Registrar, representing the College, had joined with the Association of Teachers of the Blind and the Smith Training College in a deputation to the Board of Control, working under the Mental Deficiency

Act, to urge the importance of special treatment of feeble-minded blind children and adults.

The points placed for consideration before the Board of Control are summarized as follows :—

1. Segregation of the mentally defective Blind from the normal Blind.
2. Segregation of the sexes.
3. One or two schools to be specially erected to provide accommodation for the mentally defective Blind of school age.
4. After the child is certified by the teacher and the medical officer as unsuitable for retention in the ordinary school or class, it should be placed as soon as possible in one of the schools provided for the mentally defective.
5. Buildings to be erected to secure classification and provide transference as the inmates are improved by the training.
6. Sites chosen to be in a country neighbourhood with spacious grounds.
7. Homes in addition to the schools to be provided for those over school age, preferably in the country, where training shall be continued, and occupation provided.

The action of the chairman and of the Hon. Registrar was approved.

It was reported that the Board of Education had approved the Examiners appointed for the current year, and had recognized the candidates who passed the examination last year.

The subject for an Essay, and regulations for competing for same, were agreed on by the Examiners and submitted to the Committee and approved, as follows :—

1. In order to encourage research in the History of the Education of the Blind, the College desires to offer a Medal for the best original Essay on the following subject :—“The History of the Education of the Blind prior to 1830.”
2. The Competition is open to all.

3. Essays must not exceed 5,000 words in length, and should be typewritten on one side of the paper only.
4. Essays must not bear the name of the Competitor, but should be distinguished by a *nom-de-plume* or motto. A closed envelope containing the name and address of the Competitor and the *nom-de-plume* or motto should be forwarded with each Essay.
5. Essays should be in the hands of the Hon. Registrar of the College, care of The British and Foreign Blind Association, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W., not later than 31st of March, 1914.
6. The Prize Essay will become the property of the College.
7. The College reserves the right to withhold the prize, should no Essay be, in its opinion, of sufficient merit.

The medal is of gold, and the first one will be kindly presented by Mr. W. H. Illingworth. A money prize of £1 will accompany the medal.

Lady Campbell gave a short report of the meeting of the League of the Empire on 19th of July, and Mr. Illingworth on the Holiday Course, which is being organized for Easter next.

The report of the Sub-Committee on the Education of Myopes was presented, and was as follows:—

1. That children suffering from *partial defects of vision not likely to become worse, should be considered as "myopes" and treated educationally as such.
2. That children suffering from myopia and not likely to become blind, should not be treated educationally as blind children.
3. That myopes, excluding extreme cases, should be treated in separate classes in ordinary schools, oral subjects being taken with the normal children.
4. That "myopes" of such degree that sighted education of even the "myope" type would be prejudicial to their sight, should be educated in schools for the Blind.

* e.g., Keratitis, operated cataract, &c.

5. That the planning and conducting of special "myope" schools should not come within the province of the College of Teachers of the Blind.

It was moved by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and seconded by Mr. T. H. Martin, and resolved "that the Report be received and further considered at the next meeting."

Lady Campbell reported fully on the conditions of the Teachers' Registration, and distributed circulars on the subject issued by the Council.

On the motion of Miss Garaway, seconded by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Lady Campbell.

17. Miss Annie Roberts, Lake Tower, Rhyl, North Wales, is doing a quiet unobtrusive work on behalf of a few defective little blind children. The school is not at present certified, but some of the children have greatly improved and developed under kind, wise, and patient treatment, together with the good air of Rhyl.

18. The Board of Management of Henshaw's Blind Asylum recently secured a large twelve roomed house in close proximity to the Asylum, and have converted this into a College of Music for the training of professional musicians and piano tuners.

Two pedal organs have been installed there, and a full equipment of everything that will tend to carrying on the work in a thoroughly satisfactory and up-to-date manner.

19. A Conference of representatives from Schools for the Blind and Schools for the Deaf, including Education Authorities, met at the Royal Institution for the Deaf at Derby on Saturday, 22nd November, for the purpose of considering the question of approaching the Minister of Education on the subject of increased grants for Blind and Deaf Schools.

The delegates were received by Dr. and Mrs. Roe, Master and Matron of the Institution, and after being shown over the

establishment were entertained to lunch by Mr. Hudson, Chairman of the Committee, supported by Sir Thomas Roe, M.P.

About forty Institutions and Schools were represented at the Conference, and after a lucid statement by Mr. Nelson of the Royal Schools for the Deaf, Old Trafford, followed by interesting discussion, the following resolutions were passed :—

1. "That this Conference is of opinion that the grants of the Board of Education for Schools for Blind and Deaf Children are altogether inadequate, and urges the Board to give largely increased grants for Schools of this type."
2. "That a deputation be appointed to wait upon the Minister of Education, and that a Committee consisting of Messrs. W. Nelson, Royal Schools for the Deaf, Old Trafford; W. Hy. Illingworth, Henshaw's Blind Asylum; A. J. Story, Blind and Deaf Schools, Stoke-on-Trent; — Green, Nottingham Day Classes for Deaf; — Martin, Oldham Day Classes for Deaf; — Burke, Liverpool Education Committee; W. H. Thurman, Royal Blind Institution, Birmingham; — Wilkinson, Bolton Education Committee, be appointed to make the necessary arrangements."

There was a distinct feeling expressed on the part of the residential schools that they should have a higher grant than the day schools, but in order to arrive at a common understanding quickly, it was decided to allow the memorial to go forward without stipulating any amount, leaving details to be supplied at the meeting with Mr. Pease, if such should be required.

Mr. Pease has intimated his willingness to receive the deputation on 23rd January.

20. The Royal Normal College has recently issued a leaflet, as an appeal, and it is stated therein that the College was founded in 1872, and that the training given has enabled over eighty per cent. of those who have completed their course to go out into the world and earn their own living instead of remaining a permanent burden to the community.

Pupils have been taken from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as the Colonies; 505 of the 540 pupils who have completed their training are successfully earning their own living; 80 have obtained organ appointments in various parts of the country; 68 (40 women and 28 men) are engaged in teaching in other schools and classes for the Blind; 3 are Clergymen; 15 young women are placed as shorthand typists. The remainder are teachers of music or pianoforte tuners. This College was one of the first to receive the title "Royal," which was granted by Queen Victoria in 1874.

21. The Blind Social Aid Society and Literary Union gave an excellent concert on 11th of October in the St. John's Gymnasium, Holloway. The Society has organized many successful meetings throughout London for the purpose of demonstrating the capabilities of the Blind, and on the leaflets and programmes is given a list of local blind workers recommended by the Society, the objects of which are the promotion of the employment and social welfare of the Blind and partially Blind by making public their capabilities and needs and by encouraging social intercourse. These gatherings prove very effective advertisements for bringing work to the Blind.

22. A very successful concert was given by the Blind last month in Belfast in aid of the Sick and Benevolent Fund of the Workshops for the Blind; in fact the Y.M.C.A. Hall was soon full, and many persons were turned away from the door. Fire alarms have recently been installed in the Workshops at a cost of about £200. About 130 are employed.

23. The annual entertainment to the Blind of York was given in the Guildhall on 10th December, when the Lord Mayor presided, and spoke most highly of the Yorkshire School for the Blind. There were many expressions of regret that Mr. Norwood was prevented by illness from being present, and Mr. Munby was requested to convey a message of sympathy from the gathering.

24. The Medical Officer of Health for the City of Birmingham has recently informed the Birmingham Institution that last year 220 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified in the city, and each of these was visited at the time of notification and at least once afterwards. In one case only was the sight lost. This speaks volumes for the efficacy of making the disease compulsorily notifiable. The Committee of the Birmingham Institution approached the Medical Officer of Health with a view to this action being taken in January, 1911, and the recommendation of the Committee was approved by the City Council on 7th March, 1911. At the present time there are eleven children attending the Kindergarten Branch, who live in Birmingham, and have become blind from ophthalmia neonatorum.

25. The Esperanto Section of the Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W., was started in 1909, and the demand for Esperanto literature amongst the Blind has exceeded all expectations. It is urged that such a language is a very great boon to the Blind, because the blind population of any country is comparatively small. They already possess, what to all intents and purposes is a universal code, or system of raised writing and printing—namely, Braille.

Braille books are very costly to produce, but if they could be printed in large numbers *in one language* for the Blind of the whole civilised world, they could be produced at a much smaller cost. Esperanto has made possible to many even of the humblest Blind, international correspondence with their fellows-in-affliction.

Therefore, if the Blind of all nations become conversant with Esperanto, two advantages at once accrue to them. First, they have a large field of international literature thrown open to them, as well as the immediate means of correspondence with their fellow-blind (or other Braillists) of all foreign countries. Secondly, they at once assume much greater numerical

importance as a body, and their demand for a cheaper literature is more possible to supply.

26. The quarterly paper of the Newport and Monmouthshire Blind Aid Society by the Rev. J. Swinnerton (that devoted and constant worker for the Blind in Monmouthshire) is always interesting to read, and in the last number it is stated that workshops are now open for blind workers, at 4, Albert Terrace, Newport, and at Llandeud, and that during the past year, 59 blind visitors have been boarded and lodged for various periods, some for months, most for weeks, and some for a few days change only, in the Llandeud Country Home. A large number of day visitors and friends of the Blind have also been received. Mr. Nakamura, a blind Japanese, was at the home for a month during the summer to study the Monmouthshire work among the Blind.

Mr. A. Thompson, one of the Newport blind workers, is in charge of the workshop at Llandeud and has founded a trade in baskets and mats. His example is a most valuable one to the adult Blind who come to the Home and are introduced to various home handicrafts, which Mr. Thompson learnt after he was 54 years of age. Six Board of Education Classes have been held by Mr. C. M. Harris and Miss Morgan, assisted by Miss M. Simmonds and Mr. A. Comley. During the past five years, sixty-four pupils have passed through these classes.

The Annual Services were held on 28th October. The special preachers at these services are blind, and the blind residents of the town as well as their sighted neighbours take great interest in them.

The Exhibition and Sale at Newport was held on 29th, 30th and 31st October, and has been of great benefit to the blind workers of the town, and has stimulated considerable interest in the Society's work. The net gain to the Society amounted to upwards of £36; four new Associates were made, and a large number of orders for goods was taken by the blind workers.

Lord Tredegar opened the Exhibition on the third day, and said that he considered the Society a deserving and important

institution, worthy of the support of everybody. To all those who are afflicted, their sympathies went out, and especially could those who had been similarly afflicted, sympathise with the Blind. He had a serious illness four or five years ago, and for two or three months was as nearly as possible totally blind. By the mercy of Providence, and the skill of physicians, his sight had been more or less restored. In those three months he learned a great deal of the difficulty and utter hopelessness which came to persons who found their sight failing. If one found that one's sight was not returning there was nothing for it but to find occupation of some kind. Those who had studied the question of occupations for the Blind were worthy of heartiest congratulations and sympathy. Mr. Swinnerton had done wonderful work since 1902, when the Home at Llandevaud was started. .

27. We have already referred to the death of Mr. Alfred Hirst and the desirability of some memorial to him. This has now taken shape, and a circular has been issued inviting contributions to secure £400, which will complete the sum desired by Mr. Hirst for the Trust for the Blind of Whitby, and establish at least two more pensions, to be known as the "Alfred Hirst Memorial Pensions." The Committee of the Memorial Fund are Miss A. S. Armitage, Miss Harris Browne, Lady Campbell, the Marquis of Normanby, Dr. Gordon Black of Harrogate, Mr. F. J. Munby, Mr. Pannett of Whitby, Mr. Phillips of Leeds. and Mr. H. J. Wilson. Lady Campbell has kindly consented to act as Hon. Treasurer, and all contributions should be sent to her at "Windermere," Church Road, Upper Norwood, London, S.E.

28. A scheme on behalf of the Blind in Heathen and Moslem Countries has been set on foot by that indefatigable and original worker for the Blind, Miss I. M. Heywood. There is a pressing need that something should be done to save the thousands of non-Christian Blind from the terrible conditions under which they are now living.

There is no intention to form a new Society, but to inaugurate a Trust Fund, to which Missionary Societies can apply for grants for their Institutions and Schools for the Blind.

A Committee has been formed (a) to promote the conversion of the Heathen and Moslem Blind to Christianity; (b) to assist Schools and Institutions which already exist (under Christian supervision) for the physical and spiritual welfare of the Blind; (c) to encourage and assist the training of workers for the above-mentioned objects; and (d) to raise a fund for the special purpose of the proposed Trust.

The necessity for this enterprise has been well and succinctly set out in a short paper by Miss Heywood, Claremont, Pendleton, Manchester, who, acting as Hon. Secretary, will gladly send copies of the paper and give any information about the scheme to those who are interested in this vast but much needed philanthropic effort.

29. The second report of the dépôt for work of the Blind, 53, Church Road, Wimbledon, has been issued, and shows steady progress. Everything sold is actually the work of blind persons. The dépôt is getting quite well known in Wimbledon as a shop where good baskets, mats and brooms can be bought.

30. In our last number we referred to the good work Mr. J. Perez Mendoza was essaying to do for the Blind in the Argentine Republic, and it is with sincere pleasure we heard from him a few days ago informing us that his carefully considered scheme, already referred to, had become law, and that an Argentine Institution for the Blind is to be erected. Plans of the building are now being prepared, and will be submitted for criticism to experts in Argentina and other countries. Mr. Mendoza says the building will be very complete, and consist of eleven sections, viz., a kindergarten, elementary, professional and technical schools, a consulting room where free advice will be given about the eyes, a printing press room, a library, a gymnasium, a home for the aged, workshops, houses for the workpeople and their families, and pensions. We heartily con-

gratulate Mr. Mendoza on the successful result of his persistent efforts on behalf of his blind countrymen, and we hope that he may be able to attend the Conference, where he would have a warm welcome, and give us more details about the proposed new Institution.

31. The French Postmaster-General has written to the President of the Association, Valentin Haüy, to the effect that the British Government had laid two proposals before those Governments in the Postal Union in regard to the reduction of the heavy postal rates for the transmission abroad of embossed literature and music for the Blind. The proposal preferred by the British and other Governments fixes the rate at 50 centimes for every packet weighing from one to six pounds. This proposal has the merit of simplicity, and is likely to be as liberal as can be expected. Mr. Wilson, Chairman of the Conference Committee, has written to the British Postmaster-General thanking him for his kind and encouraging interest in the matter.

32. The Teachers' Registration Council representative of the Teaching Profession constituted by order in Council, February 29th, 1912, has framed conditions for the admission of approved persons to a Register of Teachers, the said Register to contain the names and addresses of all registered teachers in alphabetical order in one column, together with the date of their registration, and such further statement as regards their attainments, training, and experience as the Council may from time to time determine that it is desirable to set forth. The conditions of Registration are now made public, and full information and application forms can be obtained from the Secretary, Teachers' Registration Council, 2, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.

33. At the first concert, given at the Hotel Cecil, on 30th December, by the Incorporated Society of Musicians, a quartet by Mr. Wolstenholme for violin, viola, piano, and violincello was most favourably received.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES OF THE BLIND.

The fourth annual meeting of the Union of Unions for the Blind was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on the 24th of October.

There were present from the Metropolitan Union, Miss Bennett, Miss B. Taylor, Mr. G. Campbell, and Mr. H. J. Wilson; from the Midland Union, Miss J. A. Merivale, Miss Wright, Mr. H. Pine, and Mr. Thurman; from the North of England Union, Miss I. Heywood, Miss M. Sadgrove, Mr. F. J. Munby, and Mr. W. H. Illingworth; from the North West Union, Miss M. Comber, Miss B. Griffith, and Archdeacon Barber; from the Western Union, Mrs. Vere Stead, and the Rev. S. F. Harris; and from the Eastern Union, Miss Emery; Mr. Stuart Johnson, Hon. Treasurer, was also present.

Regrets of inability to attend the meeting were received from Miss Rayner, Captain Metcalfe, and Mr. S. M. Burrows.

On the motion of Mr. Illingworth, seconded by Miss Heywood, Mr. Wilson was unanimously elected Chairman.

In thanking the members for his election, Mr. Wilson stated that he would endeavour to devote as much time and attention to the Union in future, as he had done in the past, and that he considered it a great honour to be elected again as Chairman, and to have their confidence renewed.

He wished to take this opportunity of tendering a hearty welcome to Mrs. Vere Stead, of the Western Union, and to Miss Emery, who is kindly taking up the organization of the Eastern Union, and to Miss Wright, whom they are glad to see amongst them again.

With regard to the work of the Unions, there had been much progress in all of them, and although it may appear invidious to refer to any particular one, he could not help mentioning the younger brother, the Western Union. Only this time last year Mr. Harris started the work, and it had made wonderful progress. Then there is the squalling baby of the Eastern Union, still squalling, but he hoped Miss Emery will soon turn him into a fine well behaved boy!

Since last year several important events had taken place. There had been conferences of representatives of the two Blind Aid Bills, and one Bill had been mutually agreed on. Then they were all delighted to see that Mr. John Burns, speaking at the International Medical Congress in London last August, said that he intended to make ophthalmia neonatorum a compulsorily notifiable disease throughout the country. This decision apparently had been brought about largely through the action of members of the Unions, by speeches and by the distribution of literature. The report of the Uniform Type Committee had been issued, and it is gratifying to find that they have adopted English Braille. An important meeting had been held at Oxford to form a National Library for the Blind. An address had been given by Mr. Deas on taking blind people to museums. The Association of Teachers had held its first meeting.

The Blind Aid Bill had been amended and adopted by the Institutions and by the National League of the Blind, and will be introduced as soon as Parliament meets.

The Conference is to be held in London in June, and all members are asked to take an active interest in it and persuade people to come. Two large halls in the Church House, Westminster, had been taken, and it is expected that the Conference will be on a larger scale than any previous one.

Mr. Wilson concluded by saying that he had been asked by the Conference Committee to read a paper on the Unions, and he asked for the assistance of the various Unions when he sends round a circular letter on the subject.

It was proposed by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Pine, and resolved that Miss B. Taylor and Mr. Campbell be appointed Hon. Secretaries to the Union.

Mr. Campbell, in thanking the meeting, said that he hoped the Unions would communicate with each other if they came across any cases of fraud with regard to blind people. It was only by making them known that the public could be protected from what might become a serious question.

It was proposed by Archdeacon Barber, seconded by Mr. Thurman, and resolved that Mr. Johnson be elected Treasurer.

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting be May 15th.

The reports of the Organizing Secretaries of the various Unions were read, and several other important matters were discussed.

Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union. The usual monthly meetings have taken place, and much important business has been transacted. The annual report for 1913 has been drafted, and will be ready shortly. A very interesting pamphlet with pictures on the ravages of ophthalmia neonatorum has been drawn up by Lady Campbell, and will soon be circulated. The monthly report of the Organizing Secretary is always full of interest, and shows the large amount of work that is done in and outside the office. The new offices are at 63 and 64, Denison House.

Midland Counties Union. The 2nd annual meeting of the Warwickshire Association was held in the Town Hall, Leamington, in October, when Lord Algernon Percy, President of the Association, presided, and there was a large gathering. The annual report was read by the Hon. Secretary, the Rev. F. H. Hodgson, in which reference was made to the death of the Vice-President, the Marquis of Northampton, and to the fact that local correspondents had been appointed in the fourteen rural deaneries. The most important development of the work was the appointment of Mrs. Buckley, as librarian, to circulate books in embossed types. Miss Merivale then moved the adoption of the report, and gave an interesting account of what was being done in the other counties of the Midland Union and of the help that had been given to many blind persons. She appealed to Warwickshire to further the good work that had been commenced. Captain Peirson Webber seconded the adoption of the report, and gave some interesting and valuable advice how the Blind, especially those going blind in the prime of life, should be treated and helped. He strongly recommended them being taught Braille at an early stage, as such study would be

of absorbing interest to the newly-blind man, and would gradually dismiss the state of depression into which he probably fell, when blindness suddenly came upon him. Captain Webber also recommended the blind man to learn typewriting, so as to bring him again in touch with the sighted world and thus regain confidence and independence.

Miss E. Wright has been working most assiduously in Worcestershire, and her efforts have now been rewarded by the formation of a strong Worcestershire Association for the Blind. There are more than 500 blind persons in this county, the great majority of whom would benefit by the operation of the Association. A large number of them owe their blindness to causes which might have been prevented in childhood, and many are in very poor circumstances.

A quarterly meeting was held in October at Burton, when the Mayor presided, and a provisional Committee was appointed to look after the Blind in that town. The needs of the Blind were very clearly and enthusiastically placed before the meeting by Miss Merivale, Miss E. Wright, Messrs. Dixon, Pine, and Thurman.

Western Counties Union. A meeting of the Committee was held at the Workshops for the Blind, Bristol, on 29th of October. There were present—Mr. F. Richardson Cross (Bristol), Chairman, Mrs. Vere Stead, Organizing Secretary, Miss Beaven (Bath), Miss Brockwell (Bristol), Rev. E. G. Cocks (Devonport), Rev. C. F. Hardy (Bristol), Captain Berthon (Cheltenham), Captain Metcalfe (Somerset), Mr. C. W. Stevens (Bristol), and Rev. S. F. Harris, Hon. Secretary. Also by invitation the following members of the Bristol Institution for the Blind—Colonel Cary Batten, Messrs. C. T. Bridgett and J. T. Francombe. Explanations of absence were sent by Miss Buckingham (N. Devon), Miss Karlake (S. Devon), Miss Smith (Weston), Sir St. Vincent Hammick (S. Devon), Rev. R. Jenkins (Exeter), Mr. Banks (Salisbury), Mr. Barrett (Bristol), and Mr. Pinn (Exeter).

The name of Mr. Bailward, of Horsington Manor, was added to the list of the Committee.

Reports of work were given by the Organizing and Honorary Secretaries.

A long discussion followed. Amongst other subjects:—Sale of Work of the Blind in various districts, placing books and magazines in free libraries, special terms on trams for the Blind, tickets for concerts, &c., bureaux, occupations for the Blind, including such matters as supply of material, instruction in rural districts, &c., and getting neglected children to school.

The appointment of a large number of Honorary District Representatives was reported.

The question of County Sub-Committees was discussed. The plan was approved and left over for development.

Eastern Counties Union. This Union now has a very energetic business-like Hon. Organizing Secretary, Miss K. M. Emery, Maryland, Ely, and a preliminary leaflet has been issued inviting those who are interested in the Blind to assist in promoting the formation of Local Committees and County Associations, and to give personal service, as Hon. Visitors, to the Blind in their immediate neighbourhood. A list of about 1,000 blind persons residing in the Eastern Counties has already been made by Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S., through the Chief Constables of the districts. The Rev. C. E. Bolam, Rector of St. Mary Magdalene, Lincoln, and the Rev. J. S. Wood and Miss V. Wood, of Great Ponton Rectory, Grantham, are lending much valuable assistance in the organization.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE BLIND, LONDON, 1914.

A meeting of the Organizing Committee took place on 29th of November, when there were present—Miss Austin, Miss B. Taylor, Messrs. G. M. Campbell, W. H. Dixson, P. M. Evans, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, Stuart Johnson, A. Siddall, W. M. Stone, H. C. Warrilow, Henry

Stainsby (Hon. Secretary), and Henry J. Wilson (Chairman). Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. Balfour, Mines, Norwood, Pine, Priestley, and Dr. Ranger.

It was unanimously resolved to send a letter to Mr. Norwood expressing the Committee's sympathy with him in his illness, coupled with the hope that he may have a speedy restoration to health.

Mr. Dixon reported on the proposals in regard to International postage to be brought forward at the Postal Conference in April, and it was resolved to send a cordial vote of thanks to the Postmaster-General for the sympathetic interest he is taking in this matter. Mr. Dixon was also warmly thanked for the part he had taken.

The Chairman reported that the Duke of Connaught had kindly consented to be Patron of the Conference, and a long list of Vice-Presidents was presented.

Mr. P. M. Evans, Clerk to the Clothmakers Company, was unanimously appointed Hon. Treasurer.

The Chairman reported that he had secured for the Conference the following rooms at the Church House, viz., the Great Hall, the Hoare Memorial Hall, the small Hall, two Committee rooms, &c., and it was decided to use the Great Hall for the Exhibition and the Hoare Memorial Hall for the Conference.

Reports were given by the Hon. Secretary as to papers being read by representatives from Canada, the United States of America, Denmark, France, and Germany. It was decided to invite Mr. C. F. F. Campbell (editor of the *Outlook* for the Blind) to give a lantern lecture on "Resources for the Blind in America," on one of the evenings of the Conference.

A play written by Mr. Siddall was submitted, and remitted to the Entertainments Committee.

The preliminary circular was presented by the Hon. Secretary, discussed, and approved with slight amendments.

Reports were given by the Chairmen of the several Sub-Committees, viz., Finance, Advertising and Invitations, Music

and Entertainments, Hospitality, Exhibition and Demonstrations, and Regulations.

It was agreed to secure paid clerical assistance for the Conference, and the Chairman and Hon. Secretary were authorized to find and engage a suitable person.

It was decided to approach the Government with a view of their officially notifying the Conference to Foreign Powers, and the Chairman and Mr. Stuart Johnson undertook to approach the President of the Board of Education on the matter.

A letter from Miss Comber was read, in which she suggested that the Conference should discuss the effect of cinematograph shows on children's eyes.

Mr. Maurice J. Myers, the well-known blind stenographer, who reported so accurately at the Exeter Conference, was appointed official reporter of the Conference.

Monthly meetings of the Committee were arranged from henceforth, and the next meeting takes place on 24th January.

A preliminary notice of the Conference will probably have been issued before these lines appear in print, giving a list of Vice-Presidents and general information. In addition to names already mentioned in previous numbers, His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury has kindly consented to be a Vice-President and also Lord Howard de Walden; the Master of the Clothworkers' Company (Sir Melvill Beachcroft); Lt.-Gen. Sir A. E. Codrington, K.C.V.O.; Dr. C. S. Loch, of the Charity Organization Society, and others. Strenuous efforts are being put forth to make the Conference a large and important one, and the committee count on the co-operation of all the Institutions and Societies for the Blind in the United Kingdom, and hope that all will send representatives. It is gratifying to be able to report that arrangements are being made to have an official notification of the holding of the Conference conveyed to Foreign Governments. A special feature of the Conference will be an Exhibition of the Arts and Industries of the Blind, which will include, besides specimens of all kinds of work done by them in the United Kingdom and Foreign Countries—demonstrations by living workers; musical and

gymnastic displays; stalls of books and apparatus; medical appliances connected with the preservation and restoration of sight, and many other features of interest. The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. P. M. Evans, clerk to the Clothworkers' Company, is issuing an excellent appeal for funds, which it is hoped will be well responded to, as the expenses in such a large undertaking—far larger than any previous one—are of necessity very heavy. The expenses include the hire of the Great Hall and rooms at the Church House for a week; the Exhibition, Concert, Advertising, Printing (including the Handbook, Papers, and Report), Stationery, Postage, &c., and it is hoped if sufficient funds are forthcoming, to provide accommodation and hospitality for the Overseas Visitors. A friend has kindly given a special donation of £100 to cover clerical expenses, so that there will be no charge on the funds for which the appeal is made, for personal services on the part of anyone connected with the Conference. A full statement of accounts will be sent to each subscriber after the Conference is over. In our next number we hope to give as complete a statement as possible in regard to all the arrangements. At present the papers and their respective writers provisionally decided on are:—"Blindness in Adult Life," by Mr. Miles Priestley; "Pianoforte Tuning as an Occupation for the Blind," by Mr. Guy M. Campbell or by Mr. Layton, of Canada; "How to improve the attitude of the Public towards the Employment of the Blind, and Legislation (past and impending) on behalf of the Blind," by Sir Ellis Cunliffe; "The Education and After-Care of the Blind-Deaf," by Mr. W. M. Stone; "The Work of the Unions of Societies for the Blind—History and possible Developments," by Mr. Henry J. Wilson; "How to deal with the incompetent Blind," by Mr. W. H. Illingworth. There will also be a paper on "Elementary Education of the Blind," and arrangements are being made for papers dealing with the Blind in the United States of America, France, Germany, Australia, Canada and Denmark. There will be a Garden Party at the Royal Normal College, on Saturday afternoon, 20th June, and other social arrangements are being made. Messrs. Thomas

Cook & Son (Tourists' Agents) have been appointed official agents to the Conference.

REMINISCENCES OF THE BLIND CHILDREN'S HOME, DEVONSHIRE ROAD, LIVERPOOL.

It may be interesting to the readers of this Magazine to have a little history of the Blind Children's Home which has been carried on for many years in Liverpool.

It began as a small Cottage Home in 1874, arising out of the Home Teaching Society's work, which had its commencement in 1857, when teachers were and are employed to visit all the outside Blind that could be found living in their own homes, and teach them to read the Scriptures in the raised type (Moon's type only in those days—now Braille and Moon's). Some little children were met with by the teachers, who seemed in great need of a Home or School, where they could be taught regularly and more frequently than was possible in a mere weekly visit or class. The old established School in Hardman Street, Liverpool, and other Institutions, did not admit any blind children at that time under ten years of age. To meet this need, a small Cottage Home was started, and a few little ones were received. This small effort soon expanded, and a second Cottage speedily became necessary to take in the little applicants from various quarters, including Wales, etc. Thus the Infant Home for blind children in Miller Street, Toxteth Park, became fairly established, where twelve little ones at a time were housed, cared for, and educated, for sixteen years. (It may be mentioned here that at an early stage of this little Home the late Dr. Armitage, the friend of the Blind, was a great element of encouragement to persevere). Then a further development was needed, so a better house with larger accommodation was taken at 54, Devonshire Road, and the children removed to these more airy premises on 22nd May, 1891. This new Home was formally opened by the first Lord Bishop of Liverpool,

Dr. Ryle. In 1893 the Government having undertaken the charge of the education of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, it was decided to have the Home certified, and on H.M. Inspector's first visit, 4th April, 1893, the little Home was designated by him as "a Public Institution with a private Committee," and his Report stated: "This is a happy little Home, where the children are tenderly nursed and carefully taught." In 1895 the adjoining house (No. 56) was taken for the accommodation of the little boys, the first house being then kept exclusively for girls, communication being made between the two houses, so that they could be worked under the same Head Matron. This was also opened by the Lord Bishop of Liverpool, on 5th November, 1895, the Home being certified for twenty boys and twenty girls. Three teachers were employed, two sighted and one blind. The latter was for a short time in the Home as a child, then sent up to the Royal Normal College, returning eventually as trained teacher to this Home, where she has been for many years.

So the Blind Children's Home went happily forward. Several needy blind babies came under the shelter of this Home from two years old, etc. The total number of children who have been trained in the Home is 140, and many of these children are now men and women, honourably maintaining themselves in the Workshops for the Blind, Cornwallis Street, Liverpool. The girls were kept in the Home until sixteen years of age, and were, when eligible, apprenticed to a trade. The boys left the Home at the age of twelve, to pass into larger Institutions under a Master's care till sixteen, and able to be apprenticed also.

It was with great regret, that owing to a combination of circumstances that seemed to point to such a decision, the Committee decided to close this interesting and happy Home at Christmas, 1912. Perhaps it had done its work? having been, as it has been comfortingly said, "The Pioneer of needed work among the very young blind children" who were not as yet eligible for entrance into the existing Institutions, until Government made the age, as it has now done, for the education grants to be given from five years old.

There was no similar Home at that time open for little blind children in the North of England, and only one in the South, founded by Miss E. Breay, at Worcester, in 1869, and removed later to Kilburn (now closed for many years), but a grateful tribute must be paid here, for this little Home at Kilburn furnished a model on which to work the Liverpool one.

Those who began this Infant Home for Blind Children in Liverpool, thank God that they have had the privilege of carrying on this work for so many years, while such a Home was needed, and now that there are so many larger and better Schools, the smaller Homes seem no longer required, and the little inmates have been happily placed in the various beautiful Institutions elsewhere—Wavertree, Preston, Leatherhead, Birmingham, Manchester, Bradford, etc., and it is hoped they will all, with God's blessing, one day take their places in the world as useful, happy, God-fearing, self-maintaining citizens.

ELIZA WAINWRIGHT.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY FOR THE BLIND, BRISTOL.

By the Rev. C. F. HARDY, M.A., Superintendent.

The Bristol Asylum, or School of Industry for the Blind, was founded in the year 1703 by two members of the Society of Friends, Messrs. Bath and Fox. Its first home was a disused Baptist meeting house in Callow Hill Street, Bristol, and a beginning was made with six daily pupils, four boys and two girls, who were first tried at the occupations of plaiting whips and spinning flax. The making of stay laces soon took the place of whip-plaiting, but was probably found unremunerative or otherwise unsatisfactory, for we find that this industry was also given up, and a trial made of basket-making. This trade has continued from that time up to the present to be the main industry of the Institution.

Unfortunately, the records of the work in its earlier years are but scanty, and it is not possible to gather any information about methods of training, or the kinds of baskets made. But from statements of accounts, it is evident that the manufactures

of the pupils must have met with a ready and increasing sale, for while in 1794 the amount of sales was £18, it reached the very respectable total, fifteen years later, of £1,088.

And previous to this, in the year 1803, the funds of the Asylum had increased to such an extent that the Committee were able to purchase larger premises in Lower Maudlin Street, Bristol, where the work was carried on up to 1838. The removal to the new premises was marked by a change in the policy of the Committee. Hitherto all pupils were lodged and boarded outside, but in 1803 female pupils began to be received as inmates.

The employment of the Blind was the primary object aimed at by the Committee, but it is interesting to note that from the first they never lost sight of the importance of attempting to stimulate intellectual development. In the Report issued in 1809 mention is made of readers who enlivened the hours of recreation, and some years later mention is made of the gift of an old harpsichord, which was used for accompanying psalmody. But, as a whole, mental instruction was not seriously taken in hand until 1838, when the Institution again removed to Queen's Road, Clifton, though in 1830 an impetus was given to the study of music by the purchase of a grand piano, and the performance of one of Handel's choruses. A choir was formed, which regularly rendered the Sunday Services at St. Matthew's Church, Kingsdown, and gave concerts. It might be noted in passing that even in the present day there is a widespread belief that the Blind are more naturally musical than the sighted. This theory is probably erroneous, the truth being that they are, as a class, neither more nor less musical by nature than sighted people. But it happens that music is one of the forms of study and recreation that is open to them, and their love for it lends strength to the idea that they must be specially gifted because they are blind.

In 1832 the Committee took the step of applying for Incorporation by Act of Parliament. Under the Act the constitution of the Committee was finally settled, and the finances of the Institution regulated. At the same time, it was

ordered that a Chaplain be appointed, and that the services and teaching given in the Institution be in accordance with the tenets of the Church of England, which has been the case since.

The premises in Lower Maudlin Street began about the same time to prove too small for increasing numbers, and the Committee realised that they must once more move into fresh quarters. It was felt that the work of the Asylum, becoming each year of more importance, was deserving of attracting more public attention, and steps were taken to acquire a commanding site in Lower Queen's Road, at the top of Park Street. Plans were got out for the erection of a building capable of accommodating from 80 to 100 pupils, and including the provision of workshops and a private Chapel. The accepted estimate for the work was £13,048, and the result was the handsome block of buildings which for many years justified the hopes of the Committee that by its erection not only would the objects of the Institution be promoted and enlarged, but a structure raised which would be worthy of the importance of the City of Bristol.

Buildings, however, like other things, outgrow their usefulness, and, after 70 years, the Committee once more found themselves faced with a serious problem. Times and ideas move forward, and the decision of the Board of Education went forth that the premises of the Bristol Blind Asylum were no longer suitably adapted for the reception and tuition of resident school pupils. So in October, 1904, a meeting of influential Bristol citizens was held at the Council House to listen to a statement of the considerations which compelled the Committee to advise the removal of the Institution to other quarters. After discussion, a resolution approving of this was passed unanimously, and steps were at once taken to promote a Bill in Parliament empowering the Committee to build afresh, and to hold sufficient land to enable them to do so. A suitable site was obtained at Westbury-on-Trym, within two and a-half miles of Bristol and in close communication with it.

In 1907 an important step was taken in connection with the adult Blind of Bristol by the Committee of the Blind Asylum deciding to amalgamate with the Committee of the Home

Teaching and Industrial Employment of the Blind Association, the result being that all the work for the Blind in Bristol should be practically controlled by the Committee of the Blind Asylum, doing away with the confusion caused by the existence of two Institutions, and at the same time making it possible to increase the beneficial treatment of the Blind. During this year, too, arrangements were made for the starting of an Outworkers' Sick Benefit Club, open to all men and women in connection with the Institution Workshops. In 1908 negotiations which had been carried on with the Committee of Bristol University resulted in the sale to them of the premises and site of the Blind Asylum for the sum of £27,500. Arrangements were at once made to begin operations on the new site at Westbury-on-Trym, the Committee having chosen the plans for the new building submitted by Mr. Edward Gabriel, of London. These plans, however, did not include accommodation for all the adult workers, for whom provision would have to be made. And the Committee found themselves in a position to state that to carry out the scheme effectively, at least £30,000 would be needed in addition to the amount raised by the sale of their old premises to the University. This necessitated an appeal to the generosity of the outside public.

Considerable progress was made during 1909 with the buildings of the new School at Westbury, and the foundation stone was laid in July of that year by Mr. Joseph Storrs Fry, Vice-President of the Institution. Work went on rapidly the following year, and in December, 1910, the School was completed and ready for the reception of its inmates. A brief description may not be amiss. Accommodation is provided for 117 pupils, for the Chaplain-Superintendent, and for the residential staff of 25 persons. Though nominally one, the School really consists of five units—Senior Boys and Girls, Junior ditto, and Infants. Owing to the requirements of the Board of Education, each unit had to be provided with its own day room, dormitory, lavatory and playground. This, of course, added enormously to the cost of the building. It is lit throughout by electricity, produced by a dynamo driven by suction gas plant on

the premises. The laundry machinery is also driven by electric power.

Technical workshops were provided where boys and girls over school age are instructed in the making of baskets, book-binding, weaving and knitting.

The Institution stands in grounds $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent, and it has, therefore, been possible to set aside a large field where outdoor games may be carried on. There was, of course, no possibility of this in the old Blind Asylum, where those who knew the place will remember the cobbled yard which was practically the only recreation ground. It is beyond all doubt that the greater freedom and better air of the grounds at Westbury have been of great benefit to the children. There are at present 100 pupils. It only remains to record the completion, in 1911, of the Committee's scheme for improving the conditions under which the work of the adult Blind was carried on. The removal of the School to Westbury, and the sale of the old Blind Asylum to the University made it necessary for the Committee to seek new premises for Workshops and Sale Room. And after long consideration and careful search, a place was found admirably adapted for the purpose not far from the old site. A comparatively new factory was found in Museum Avenue at the bottom of Park Street—spacious, airy and well-lighted, and providing accommodation for a large number of workers. Here the trades of basket making, mat making, brush making, knitting (hand and machine), and weaving are carried on under vastly improved conditions. There is a well-equipped kitchen on the top floor, and mess-rooms, both for men and women, where those who wish to do so may take their meals in comfort. And the large library of Braille books is housed in the same building. The present number of workers is 91, and there are also three Blind Home Teaching Visitors attached to the Institution, whose business it is to keep in touch with the outside Blind and report on any cases requiring assistance.

It would be impossible to close any account of the Bristol Asylum for the Blind, or, as it is now styled, by the King's permission, the Royal School of Industry for the Blind, without

a reference to the great loss it has only recently sustained in the death of its late Vice-President and Chairman. The name of Joseph Storrs Fry will always be remembered as that of one of the Asylum's greatest benefactors, not only on account of his munificent bequests, but because of the manner in which for many years he identified himself with the interests of the Institution, and the deep personal interest he took in the Blind, both old and young. The new School and the new Workshops, towards the cost of which he was a large contributor, and in which he took the keenest interest, are a standing tribute to the memory of one of Bristol's great freemen.

At the annual meeting of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind, held on 22nd October, Mr. A. J. Story, headmaster of the School for the Blind and Deaf at Stoke-on-Trent, delivered an excellent address on "The Handicap of Blindness," which was much appreciated, and has by request been printed, as a booklet.

From it we cull the following :

" The organ of sight is far more active than any other sense organ in conveying impressions from the outside world to the mind. These impressions are the foundations of all real knowledge and therefore, so far as intellectual life is concerned, the Blind start life under a grave initial disadvantage. But the senses do not act alone. The object or thing that appeals to sight may also appeal to the senses of hearing, touch, taste or smell; and consequently these remaining senses of the Blind must be developed to replace, so far as it is possible, the missing faculty of sight. The direct impressions gathered through the exercise of these four senses must be used and combined together, to develop, as fully as may be, the blind person's conceptions of the things around him. What the seeing child learns through his eye, the blind one must know through his finger tips, and these finger-ends must be trained to

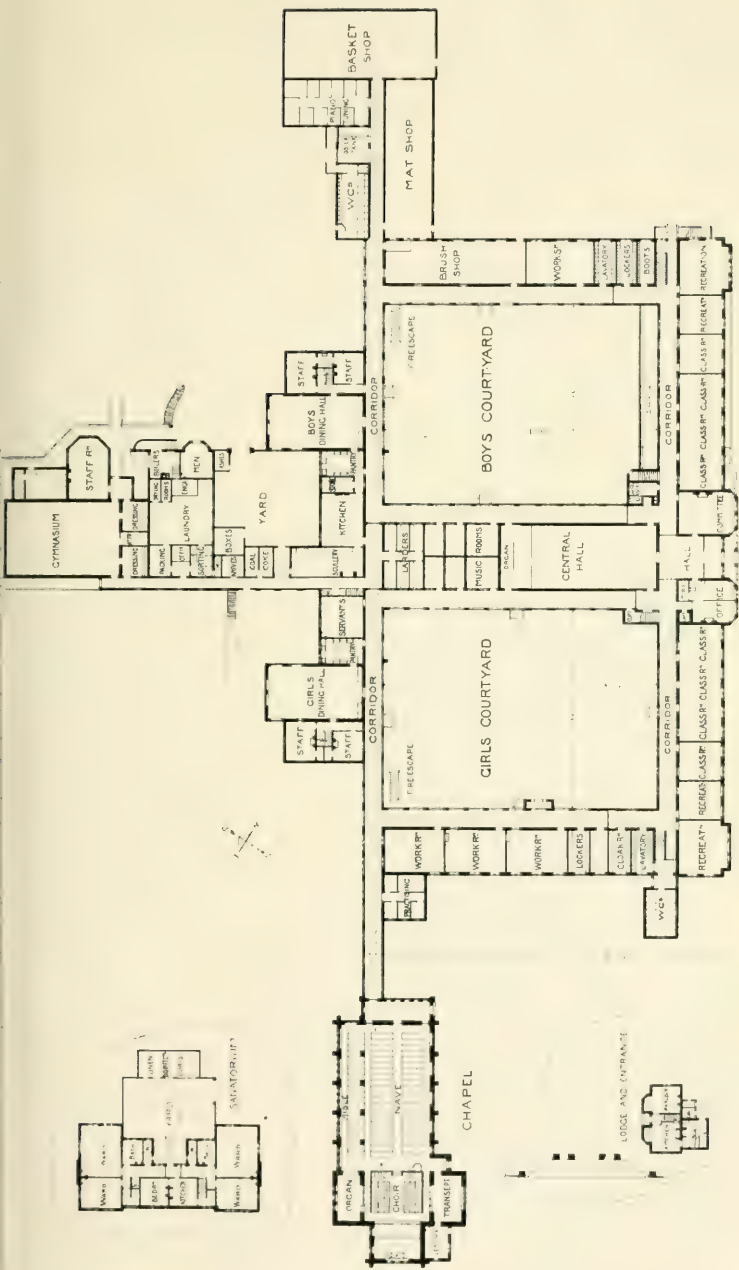
become eyes to the Blind. It is clear that such a substitution must create differences in the psychology of the Blind as compared with that of the Sighted; and there must be limitations. You will see that certain parts of knowledge, such as colour, distance, size and the refinements of shape and form can never be complete in them. And yet, spite of this handicap, it is wonderful to notice the extent to which the scientific and correlated development of the four senses compensates for the absent one of sight. One has only to mention the case of Helen Keller, deaf as well as blind, to illustrate the triumph of training over the enormous difficulties of blindness."

. . . . "Blindness imposes immeasurably greater limitations upon the physical activities of the individual than it does upon his intellectual development. In this regard it is the direct converse of deafness which retards mental growth and barely touches the physical character of the sufferer. Blindness restricts the freedom and the area of movement; it creates a physical dependence upon others."

. . . . "If we take the case even of a blind person who is physically sound and active as well as mentally alert, it is easy to see the magnitude of the handicap of blindness in industrial life. Imagine one who has never seen his own hands in a workshop he has never viewed, using, to him, invisible tools and materials to produce an article, it may be a basket, upon which his eye can never gaze. He misses all the time the direction, suggestion and correction of the eye. He works continuously in the dark. He never gets a single comprehensive impression of the work he is engaged upon, of its size or shape, but relies upon single touch impressions, or a series of them to enable him to materialise in tangible and saleable form the idea he has in mind. His very circumstances, his psychology and physiology, inevitably lead to a serious reduction in speed and output as compared with one whose eye is active; and, whatever happens, this reduction in speed of working must reflect itself on the amount of wages he weekly receives for his labour."



THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.



THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, LEATHERHEAD.
 PLAN OF GROUND FLOOR.

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 66.

APRIL 20TH, 1914.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. We deeply regret to record in these columns the very heavy loss sustained by the Blind, and their friends, in the death of Dr. Robert C. Moon on 13th February last, at his residence in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. His final illness was a short one, but he had been ailing considerably for the last eighteen months. He was the son of Dr. Moon, the well-known inventor of Moon's type for the Blind, a type of untold value for those who lose their sight in late middle life or old age, enabling many to learn to read who otherwise must have foregone that inestimable blessing. Dr. Robert C. Moon married Miss Morris, a member of a very old family in Philadelphia, in 1886, and settled in that city, becoming Secretary of the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society for the Blind, and also practising as an ophthalmologist for many years. Sincere and profound sympathy will be felt for his sister, Miss Moon, resident at 104, Queen's Road, Brighton, where she carries on the noble and beneficent work for the Blind begun by her father, Dr. William Moon. The subject of our short memoir has been a constant attendant at our Conferences, and we were all looking forward to welcome him again next June, and to hear the results of his splendid and devoted work. May many of our younger men be found to follow in his steps!

2. Before our next number is issued, the Conference will be a thing of the past. On page 183, therefore, we give all the information obtainable up to date, and we do earnestly hope that all those interested in the Blind will make a point of attending the Conference, which is being organised on a far larger scale than any previous one. The exhibition, which is to be held in the large Hall at the Church House, Westminster, ought to be most attractive, seeing that there will be not only very many excellent exhibits, but blind workers engaged in most of the industries carried on by the Blind.

3. Mr. Alfred Chapple, formerly a student of the Royal Normal College, who gained honours in History at Cambridge, took his M.A. degree on 23rd January.

4. Mr. Albert Robins, A.R.C.O., who was a Gardner Scholar at the Royal Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, has been appointed organist and choirmaster at the Wesleyan Memorial Church, North Shields.

5. A totally blind man has been successfully placed from the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind, as operator for the Dictaphone Company, at a good wage. He obtained the appointment after a fortnight's work at the business exhibition recently held in Birmingham, where he demonstrated to the public the use of the Dictaphone.

6. Mr. John M. Elliott, who commenced life as a bricklayer's lad and went blind early in life, became a master and amassed a large sum of money by courage and perseverance. He always wished to help the Blind, and has left £12,000 for the benefit of his afflicted brothers and sisters in Newcastle, Gateshead, and neighbourhood.

7. Ethel Mary Thomas and Arthur Harris, pupils at the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind, have successfully passed the Associateship Examination of Trinity College, London, in piano playing.

8. The special article on Schools for the Blind in this number is on the Royal School for the Indigent Blind, Leatherhead, by the Principal, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., J.P., and in the next number the article will be on the Royal Asylum for the Blind, Glasgow, by Mr. T. Stoddart, Superintendent.

9. A donation of £50 has just been received for "the Alfred Hirst Memorial Fund" from the Clothworkers Company, and £25 from Mr. John Melrose, of Uloomoo, S. Australia, of whom an account was given by the late Mr. Hirst under the title of "A Blind Squatter," in the October number of *The Blind*, 1904. This sum brings the total amount collected to over £250. It is hoped that the friends who are intending to subscribe will send their subscriptions at once to Lady Campbell, Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood, London, S.E.

10. The Examination of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships, tenable at the Royal Normal College, will henceforth be held twice a year, in the first week of July and December. Intending candidates should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th June and 15th November, respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

11. We regret that, owing to the full account given of the Conference arrangements, we have to hold over much material of interest until next number, including reports of the work of the various Unions, and reference to that important debate in the House of Commons on March 11th initiated by a motion by Mr. Wardle, who brought the needs of the Blind before the House.

12. On Thursday, March 19th, the new building of the National Institute for the Blind (hitherto known as the British and Foreign Blind Association) was opened by His Majesty the King, accompanied by Her Majesty the Queen. Their Majesties, attended by their suite, arrived punctually at 3.30, and were

received by Dr. Ranger, Chairman, and the members of the Council, among whom it was of sad yet grateful interest to recognise Miss Armitage, the daughter of the great and good Founder, Dr. T. R. Armitage, commonly called the Friend of the Blind, whose name is inseparably connected with the well-known letters B. and F. B. A., and is perpetuated in the Armitage Hall, in which the opening ceremony took place. Miss Doris Armitage, his granddaughter, presented a bouquet to the Queen on her Majesty's arrival. A guard of honour of blind boy Scouts from Worcester College was stationed in the Hall. An address was read by the Chairman, to which His Majesty graciously replied, and, after that, was pleased to declare the building open. The Bishop of London then offered prayer, and a select choir from the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, sang Stanford's Motet, "Glorious and Powerful God," after which their Majesties left the Armitage Hall and were conducted over the Factory, graciously signing their names in the Visitors' Book before their departure. Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., gave a recital on the organ prior to the opening ceremony, and Mr. W. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., Oxon, did the like at its conclusion.

13. The annual meeting of the Council of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on March 28th, at 3.30 p.m., when Mr. H. J. Wilson presided, and the sixth annual report for the year, ended December 31st, 1913, was read by the Hon. Registrar and presented. The resignations of Miss I. M. Heywood and Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, as members of the Council, were received and accepted with much regret. The following new members were elected on the Council:—Miss C. Bennett, Sir John Brickwood, Mr. G. C. Brown, Mr. E. Evans, Miss J. I. Falconer, the Rev. C. F. Hardy, Miss A. J. Lilley, Miss E. E. Morley, Miss Pearse, Mr. C. A. Pearson, Miss R. Petty, Mr. J. M. Ritchie, and Mr. S. Robinson.

Lord Aldenham, Sir G. A. Critchett, Lord Southwark, and Sir Joseph Savory, Bart., were elected Vice-Presidents. The

best thanks of the meeting were given to the Hon. Officers for their services during the past year, and it was resolved that Mr. Henry J. Wilson, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaid, Dr. Ranger, Mr. Henry Stainsby, and Messrs. Drury, Thurgood and Co. be and they are hereby re-appointed Chairman, Treasurer, Solicitor, Registrar, and Auditors respectively for the current year.

One third of the Executive Committee having to retire in accordance with the regulations, and being eligible for re-election, were re-elected.

Lady Campbell made a very interesting report on the Teachers' Registration Council.

Three new Fellows were elected, viz., the Rev. Thomas Burns, D.D., Chairman of the Royal School for the Blind, Edinburgh; Mr. Arthur L. Lowe, M.A., LL.B., late Chairman of the Royal Institution for the Blind, Birmingham; and Mr. John C. Warren, M.A., Hon. Treasurer of the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind. Dr. Burns was unable to attend, but the other two Fellows went through the usual formal investment, and their hoods were placed over their respective shoulders by the Chairman.

14. The Census (1911) returns on the Blind have been published, but, as we anticipated, they are useless for comparison with previous returns, because particulars were asked for only the "*totally* blind." The Registrar General himself evidently agrees with us, because he says "it is extremely doubtful whether the figures obtained accurately represent their numbers." We hope not, indeed, because if there are 26,336 returned as *totally* blind, as compared with 25,317 "blind" in 1901, the number of the Blind must have increased to an alarming degree, when we know that the percentage of totally blind persons is small. However, to quote the Registrar General again, he says "it seems probable that a number of persons have been returned as totally blind who possess some degree of sight." What those interested in the Blind wanted to know was how many persons there are who are blind for all

practical purposes, and must be treated and trained as blind persons. Information on this point is altogether lacking.

15. An excellent paper on "Street Collections for Charities," by Mr. E. C. Price, Assistant Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, was read at a meeting held on 9th February, when Lord Methuen presided. Mr. Price pointed out that there has been a noticeable increase in the last few years in the number and importunity of street collectors for Charities, and he gave six examples of fraudulent cases, including that of a notorious blind man, who was recently sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour. Apparently, at present, anyone may rattle a money-box to excite the generous impulses of wayfarers and collect for anything so long as he keeps his place on the footway and causes no obstruction or annoyance to passengers. In the concluding paragraph of Mr. Price's valuable paper, which should be read by everyone who gives money in the streets, he says "No one is compelled to drop a coin into a street box, however hardily it is shaken. The charitable impulse is capable of discipline. Will it be for ever impossible to induce the man in the street to give his alms with forethought and purpose? A further question is whether any means can be devised for giving a recognised status to voluntary charities and assisting the public to discriminate between their claims."

The following resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously:—"Having regard to the fact that street begging was becoming a great nuisance to the community, the C.O.S. be requested to communicate with the proper authorities as to the best means of stopping all kinds of fraudulent begging."

16. We have received a copy of the School Magazine, an interesting, instructive monthly Journal for blind scholars, published by the British and Foreign Blind Association. It is issued in Braille, and appears eminently calculated to fulfil its mission, stated by the Editorial, to be that of use in schools for the Blind as a reader, and for instruction. The first number contains different extracts of great interest, notably "England

in the Long Ago," from the Children's Encyclopædia, and an exciting tale called "The Trapper and his Dog," from the Scholars Own. "The Citizen," by Oscar Browning, M.A. (which is to be continued in future numbers) should also prove of great value to our growing up boys and girls. Price 7d. post free.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE BLIND, CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER,

June 18th to 24th, 1914.

The Regulations of the Conference are as follows:—The term "delegate" shall mean a person appointed by an Institution or Society for the Blind to represent such Institution or Society. A delegate shall be a member of Conference, and have power to vote on business questions, such as the election of Committees, etc. Institutions or Societies that subscribe one guinea to the funds of the Conference shall have the right to appoint two such delegates; Institutions or Societies that subscribe two guineas, or more, to the funds of the Conference shall have the right to appoint six such delegates.

A "member" shall be a person who subscribes not less than 5s. to the funds of the Conference. Members shall be entitled to take part in the discussions, but shall not have the power to vote on business questions.

Forms for the nomination of delegates and application for membership can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, and should be returned *before May 14th*, so that the names may be included in the Conference Handbook and Guide, price 6d., by post 9d., which will be published early in June.

1. That no person be admitted to the Conference without a card of invitation, with his or her name written upon it, or other evidence of having been invited. All cards will be numbered, and the cards of delegates and members shall be untransferable.

2. That no person other than a recognised member of Conference shall be entitled to take part in the discussions except by permission of the Chairman.

3. Visitors may be admitted to the Gallery of the Hall by ticket, but shall not be entitled to take part in the proceedings.

4. That when two papers are to be contributed at one session, compilers of papers shall be limited to 20 minutes; when one paper only is to be contributed at a session, compilers will be allowed 30 minutes.

5. That each paper, as soon as read, be followed by a discussion; the opener of such discussion shall be allowed 10 minutes, and other speakers five minutes each, but these periods may be reduced or extended in special cases, at the discretion of the Chairman. •

NOTE.—The Hon. Secretary's bell will give warning two minutes before the allotted time for papers or speeches expires, and will sound again at its expiration.

6. That any member of the Conference desirous of speaking on any subject in a session shall, during the meeting, send his card (giving his description, or connection with the cause of the Blind) to the Chairman, and await his call.

7. That all questions in regard to limiting or extending the length of the speeches, and the selection of speakers whose cards have been sent up, shall be in the discretion of the Chairman, whose decision shall be final. Special facilities shall be given to blind speakers.

8. That speakers shall address the Chairman, and confine themselves strictly to the subject under discussion.

9. That no member be permitted to speak twice in the same discussion except to a point of explanation, or if called upon by the Chairman.

10. That no resolution shall be moved at any meeting of the Conference except by consent of, and by arrangement with, the General Committee.

11. That the official language of the Conference be English. Members wishing to address the Conference in any other language may do so if they are accompanied by a competent interpreter, or have previously arranged with the Committee for one to be present.

12. Members desiring to ask questions only, without making

a speech, shall send the questions, in writing, duly signed, to the Chairman, and they will be answered, if possible, before the end of that particular session.

13. Sectional gatherings will not be officially recognised, but the findings of informal discussions shall be remitted to the 1914 Conference Committee, who shall decide whether they shall be incorporated in the Official Report.

A Committee of nine has been appointed to assist the Chairman at meetings, and such Committee shall arrange that at every session of the Conference at least three of its members will be always present.

The regulations for the Exhibition and Instructions to Exhibitors are as follow :—

1. The Exhibition will be open from 11 a.m. till 9 p.m. each day, Sunday excepted.

2. There will be a charge for admission. Entrance will, however, be free to members of the Conference on showing their cards of invitation.

3. Exhibits will include the following :—

(a) Goods made by the Blind.

(b) Machines, apparatus, books, etc., which may be used by or for the Blind, or for the benefit of those threatened with blindness.

(c) Objects, books, pictures, etc., illustrating the history, education and training of the Blind or connected with blindness or with notable blind men and women.

N.B.—Articles in Class (a) must be the *bonâ fide* work of the Blind, or, if otherwise, the amount of sighted labour expended thereon must be specifically stated.

4. Blind persons should send their Exhibits to Institutions or Societies for the Blind, or to Local Secretaries (see Regulations 13 and 14) not later than Friday, May 8th.

5. In order that a Catalogue may be printed, Institutions and Societies for the Blind, Local Secretaries and Firms are requested to send particulars of their Exhibit, or Lists of the Articles which blind persons (who must be clearly named), have

sent to them for the Exhibition, to Mr. Stuart Johnson, c/o Miss J. B. Weippert, 110, Loughborough Park, S.W., not later than Monday, May 18th.

6. As soon as possible after the particulars and Lists mentioned in the above Regulation (5) have been received, labels will be sent to be attached to each article by* Institutions and Societies for the Blind, Local Secretaries and Firms, viz., Red official labels for Articles in Class (a), Blue official labels for Articles in Class (b), Yellow official labels for Articles in Class (c), and Black official addressed labels for the despatch of packages to the Church House.

N.B.—Each package should contain an addressed label for its return.

7. Institutions and Societies for the Blind, Local Secretaries and Firms should send all Exhibits to the Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W., not later than Monday, June 8th.

8. Exhibits in Classes (a) and (b) may be for sale, if desired, but Institutions and Societies for the Blind, Local Secretaries or Firms forwarding articles for sale should provide their own representative to act as salesman.

9. Exhibits must remain until the close of the Exhibition, but the Hall must be cleared by the following day, i.e., June 25th.

10. Institutions and Societies for the Blind, Local Secretaries or Firms should at once make application for space (in square feet of floor, wall or table space) to Mr. Stuart Johnson, 64, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W., giving approximately the amount likely to be required. No charge will be made for space, except to Firms exhibiting under Class (b).

11. The acceptance of Exhibits and allotment of the whole or a portion of the space applied for rests with the Committee, and no appeal from their decision can be entertained.

12. Exhibits will be insured against fire, but the Committee

* NOTE.—In the case of Group Exhibits by *some* Institutions and Societies it is recognised that it may be impossible to label each article separately as the work of a particular individual.

cannot hold themselves responsible for any loss or damage.

13. Blind persons connected with any Institution or Society for the Blind should send their Exhibits to the Institution or Society with which they are connected, with a request that they may be forwarded to the Exhibition.

14. Blind persons unconnected with any Institution or Society for the Blind and resident in the following Counties (arranged alphabetically) should send their Exhibits to the Local Secretaries, whose names and addresses are given below, viz. :—Bedfordshire, Miss Emery, Maryland, Ely, Cambs.; Berkshire, Mrs. Goodhart, Willows, Inkpen, Berks; Buckinghamshire, Mrs. Knapp, Linford Hall, Wolverton, Bucks; Cambridgeshire, Miss Emery, Maryland, Ely, Cambs; Cheshire, Miss M. Comber, Woodville, Liverpool Road, Chester; Cornwall, Mrs. Vere Stead, 36, Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, Devon; Cumberland, Miss Sadgrove, St. John's House, Beverley, Yorks; Derbyshire, Miss J. Merivale, 4, Parktown, Oxford; Devonshire, Mrs. Vere Stead, 36, Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, Devon; Dorsetshire, Mrs. Vere Stead, 36, Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, Devon; Durham, Miss Sadgrove, St. John's House, Beverley, Yorks; Essex, Mrs. Inglis, St. Mary's, Colchester; Gloucestershire, Mrs. Vere Stead, 36, Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, Devon; Hampshire, Miss Bennett, 63-64, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.; Herefordshire, Mr. J. Hall, Grosvenor House, Swansea; Hertfordshire, Miss Bennett, 63-64, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.; Huntingdonshire, Miss Emery, Maryland, Ely, Cambs; Kent, Miss Bennett, 63-64, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.; Lancashire, Miss Sadgrove, St. John's House, Beverley, Yorks; Leicestershire, Miss J. Merivale, 4, Parktown, Oxford; Lincolnshire, Rev. C. E. Bolam, St. Mary Magdalene's Rectory, Lincoln, or Miss V. Wood, Great Ponton Rectory, Lincs.; London, Miss Bennett, 63-64, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.; Middlesex, Miss Bennett, 63-64, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.; Monmouthshire, Mr. J. Hall, Grosvenor House, Swansea; Norfolk, Miss Emery, Maryland, Ely, Cambs; Northamptonshire, Miss J. Merivale, 4, Parktown, Oxford;

Northumberland, Miss Sadgrove, St. John's House, Beverley, Yorks; Nottinghamshire, Miss J. Merivale, 4, Parktown, Oxford; Oxfordshire, Miss J. Merivale, 4, Parktown, Oxford; Rutland, Miss J. Merivale, 4, Parktown, Oxford; Shropshire, Miss M. Comber, Woodville, Liverpool Road, Chester; Somersetshire, Mrs. Vere Stead, 36, Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, Devon; Staffordshire, Miss Edith Wright, Organizing Secretary of the Midland Union, Devereux House, Malvern; Suffolk, Miss Emery, Maryland, Ely, Cambs; Surrey, Miss Bennett, 63-64, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.; Sussex, Miss Bennett, 63-64, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.; Warwickshire, Miss J. Merivale, 4, Parktown, Oxford; Westmoreland, Miss Sadgrove, St. John's House, Beverley, Yorks; Wiltshire, Mrs. Vere Stead, 36, Torquay Road, Newton Abbot, Devon; Worcestershire, Miss Edith Wright, Organising Secretary of the Midland Union, Devereux House, Malvern; Yorkshire, Miss Sadgrove, St. John's House, Beverley, Yorks; North Wales, Miss Leonora Davies, 50, College Road, Bangor; South Wales, Mr. J. Hall, Grosvenor House, Swansea; Scotland, Mr. J. Frew Bryden, 201, Buchanan Street, Glasgow; Ireland, Mr. J. H. Hewitt, 28, Royal Avenue, Belfast.

15. Persons possessing or knowing of objects likely to form interesting Exhibits, or desiring to assist in the work of the Exhibition, are requested to write at once.

16. All correspondence connected with the Exhibition should be addressed to Mr. Stuart Johnson, 64, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W., and marked outside "Exhibition."

No prizes, diplomas, nor certificates of any kind will be awarded.

The Programme of the Conference, as at present arranged, is as follows, although it is liable to alteration, as we are going to press two months before the event:—

WEDNESDAY, 17th June, special service before the opening of the Conference at St. John's, Westminster, at 7 p.m., when the Rev. C. E. Bolam will be the preacher, Mr. Wolstenholme

will preside at the organ, and there will be a choir, wholly or partly, of blind students.

THURSDAY, 18th June, opening of the Conference at 11.30 a.m. "God Save the King," followed by prayer and the Chairman's address and welcome to Foreign Delegates, who will subsequently reply. The exhibition will also be opened during this the 1st Session.

2 to 5 p.m., 2nd Session. Papers, "The Work of the Unions of Societies for the Blind in England and Wales; their history and possible developments," by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, and "How to improve the attitude of the Public towards the employment of the Blind," and "Legislation (past or impending) on behalf of the Blind," by Sir R. Ellis Cunliffe.

FRIDAY, 19th June, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3rd Session. Presentation of the Reports of the various Committees appointed at the last Conference. Paper, "How to deal with the incompetent Blind," by Mr. W. H. Illingworth.

2 to 5 p.m., 4th Session. "Pianoforte tuning, an occupation for the Blind and how to make it one of the most successful," by Mr. P. E. Layton, of Montreal.

8 p.m. Play written by Mr. A. Siddall and acted by blind performers.

9 p.m. Lantern Lecture on "Work for the Blind in America in the 20th Century," by Mr. C. F. F. Campbell (Columbus, Ohio), and Mr. O. H. Burritt (Pennsylvania Institution).

SATURDAY, June 20th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 5th Session. Chairman, Lord Kinnaird, Chairman of Gardner's Trust for the Blind. Paper, FRANCE. "Braille and its modifications," by a representative of the Valentin Haüy Association, Paris.

In the afternoon there will be a Garden Party at the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, by kind invitation of the Chairman and Executive Committee of the College.

SUNDAY, 21st June. Westminster Abbey, 10 a.m. The preacher will be Canon E. L. Gedge (blind). 3 p.m., Canon Pearce. 7 p.m., Rev. H. J. R. Marston (blind). St. Paul's Cathedral, 3 p.m., Canon Alexander, when seats will be

reserved for members. Blind clergymen will occupy the pulpits in several other Churches, and blind Nonconformist Ministers in the Chapels of their respective denominations. Blind organists will also preside at the organs in many Churches.

MONDAY, 22nd June, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 6th Session. Chairman, Mrs. Wilton Phipps, Chairman of the Special Schools Committee under the London County Council. Paper, "Elementary Education of the Blind," by Lady Campbell.

In the afternoon arrangements are made for visits to Schools and Workshops and other Institutions, including the National Lending Library for the Blind, the L.C.C. School for Myopes, &c.

From 7 to 10 p.m. there will be a special session with very short papers and discussions on various topics.

TUESDAY, 23rd June, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 7th Session. Chairman, Sir R. Melvill Beachcroft, the Master of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, Paper, "Blindness in Adult Life" (a) the totally blind, (b) the partially blind, by Mr. Miles Priestley.

During the morning of this day, Committees will be elected.

2 to 5 p.m., 8th Session. "Work for the Blind in Russia," by M. Koloubovsky. "Work for the Blind in Denmark," by Mr. A. F. Wiberg, of Copenhagen. 8 p.m., Concert by blind musicians

WEDNESDAY, 24th June, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 9th Session.

Papers, "Employment and Care of the Blind in America," by Miss Winifred Holt, of New York. "The Partially Blind and the Myopes," by Dr. Bishop Harman.

2 to 5 p.m., 10th Session. Papers, "The Education and after-care of the Blind-Deaf," by Mr. W. M. Stone. "Esperanto for the Blind," by Mr. W. Percy Merrick. Closing address by the Chairman and Benediction.

An official report, giving full particulars of the Conference, will be published subsequently, in which will be given the papers that are read, the speeches, a list of exhibits, &c. The price of the report in the United Kingdom will be 2/6 (by post 2/10). A copy of the report will be supplied gratis to all subscribers of 21/- or more.

The Hospitality Committee are taking steps to assist

visitors in finding suitable hotels and lodgings. Full information can be obtained from Miss B. Taylor, 39, Sylvan Road, Upper Norwood, London, S.E., the Chairman of the Committee.

Messrs. Thos. Cook & Son have been officially appointed agents to the Conference in connection with travelling facilities for visitors.

DEPUTATION re INCREASED GRANTS TO SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND AND DEAF.

The Deputation to the President of the Board of Education re Increased Grants to Schools for the Blind and Deaf on January 23rd, at the office of the Board of Education, was introduced by Sir Thomas Roe, M.P., and the following is an abstract from the statement of the case, omitting the details concerning the Deaf Schools, &c. :—

“Prior to the passing of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act of 1893, the education of blind and deaf children was not the duty of the Local Education Authorities, and therefore not a charge upon public funds. Up to that year schools for the blind or deaf were dependent upon voluntary income, though in some instances contributions in respect of such children were made by Boards of Guardians. The Act of 1893 became operative on 1st January, 1894, when the Board of Education assumed the supervision of the work of the schools.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

A Royal Commission had been appointed in 1886 to enquire into and report upon the state and needs of the education of blind and deaf children: and this Commission, in 1889, reported and recommended that a grant of £10 per child, per year, should be paid by the Board of Education. The cost of education and maintenance in 1893, the year before the Board of Education took over the supervision of the work, was generally from £20 to £26 per year per child, so that the amount of grant recommended represented at that time from 40 to 50 per cent. of the entire cost. This low cost of education and maintenance in 1893 is accounted for by the fact that small classes, certificated teachers, extensions of buildings and equipments, manual train-

ing, medical inspection, &c., could not be officially demanded, and were therefore not provided.

THE MINUTE, 2ND APRIL, 1894.

Notwithstanding the recommendation of the Royal Commission, the Board of Education, by Minute, dated 2nd April, 1894, fixed the annual grant at £5 5s. per child, and though nearly twenty years have elapsed, this sum has not yet been increased. This grant is subject to deductions in respect of absence^g through sickness even though, as in residential schools, the pupils be treated upon the school premises.

When the amount of grant was decided by the Board of Education, it is clear that they could have had practically no knowledge of the schools or the work they were doing. If the Board had had this knowledge, it is likely that they would have adopted the recommendation of the Royal Commission which definitely and fully studied the subject.

INCREASE OF COST SINCE 1894.

Since 1894, owing mainly to the demands of the Board of Education and partly to the general increase in prices, the cost of education and maintenance has risen very considerably. Government and special qualifications are now officially required in the teacher, buildings and equipments have to be maintained in a high standard of excellence, medical inspection is demanded, small classes not exceeding ten in number are insisted upon, and provision for manual and industrial training is also insisted upon. These requirements have doubtless been to the general good of the work, and Committees of Schools are mainly in agreement with them, but they are of opinion that the Board of Education should contribute more towards them.

PRESENT COST.

Schools for the Blind and Deaf are of two types, the residential and the day school. The report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education for the year 1911 gives the cost per child in these schools as under ;—

The Blind—Day Schools: £16 to £20 per child per annum.

Residential Schools: Council: £40 to £55 per child per annum.

Voluntary: £27 to £46 per child per annum.

These figures generally accord with those returned by the various schools in response to a recent request, and justify the following as the present average cost in the two types of schools.

The Blind.—Day Schools: £18 per child per annum.

Residential Schools: £45 per child per annum.

Referring to the cost of maintaining schools, the Chief Medical Officer to the Board of Education said in his report for 1911:—

Blind Schools.—There is no indication at present that the cost is likely to diminish; the principal source of increase is the cost of teaching staff. Requirements in regard to qualifications are bringing a better equipped body of teachers into the work, with the result that outlay under this heading is neither now nor in the immediate future likely to become stationary.

HOW THE COST IS NOW MET.

Accepting the average figures given above, which appear to be supported by those of the Chief Medical Officer, as the present cost of educating blind or deaf children towards which the State contributes only £5 5s. per year, it is clear that the sums shown below have to be found from other sources in the various types of schools:—

Blind.—Day Schools: £12 15s. Residential: £39 15s.

The full cost is therefore apportioned thus;—

Blind.—Day Schools: State, 29 per cent.; other sources, 71 per cent. Residential: State, 12 per cent.; other sources, 88 per cent.

This inequality is out of all proportion with the treatment meted out by the Board of Education to other branches of educational work which it controls.

In ordinary Elementary Education the Board bears at least a 50 per cent. share of the entire cost; while in certain areas the proportion paid amounts to as much as 60 per cent. and over of the sum spent.

The blind and deaf *must* receive an efficient education in order to prevent them from becoming permanent burdens upon the community. It is clear and undoubted economy for the

community to train and educate these children, and in that work it is widely felt that the State should assume a share of the cost equal to that generally accepted in the case of children of other types, namely, a 50 per cent. part of the cost.

WHAT IS REQUIRED.

It is felt that the same general principle should underlie the State's treatment of all the classes of schools within its purview. Blindness and deafness are accidental conditions demanding exceptional educational provisions, and the fact that these provisions are more costly than those for normal children cannot be regarded as an adequate justification for ignoring the general principle, admitted practically all round in practice, and more than admitted in recent speeches of Ministers, of something like an equal incidence of costs as between the State and the local area in the case of blind or deaf children. The whole question of increased grants is, therefore, from the present conditions of the schools concerned, and from the prospect of increasing expenditures held out by the Chief Medical Officer of the Board, a pressing one in practically every school. Their efficiency depends upon the State assuming a much larger share in finding the money they require, and the matter is one that should receive the early attention of the Board of Education."

The speakers were Lord Sheffield and Mr. A. J. Story, Headmaster of the Stoke-on-Trent School for the Blind and Deaf.

The Right Hon. J. A. Pease, M.P., replied very sympathetically, and promised that the subject should have his careful consideration.

THE ROYAL SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND, LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.

By the Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., F.C.T.B., J.P., Principal.

At the close of the Eighteenth Century, "seven gentlemen visited Paris and were much impressed by the work among the Blind by Valentine Haüy. On returning home they inspired the nation with the necessity of establishing Training Schools for the Blind." There never was a better illustration of the

truth that "large undertakings often take their rise from small beginnings," for the outcome of that visit has borne fruit in a remarkable manner and to a remarkable degree. Previous to that time it was considered impossible for a blind person to do anything towards earning his living, but subsequently, effort has never ceased towards that which must be deemed a high ideal—"self-reliance and independence."

The response to the crusade preached by these seven gentlemen is a testimonial to the inherent goodness of human nature. Funds were gathered in so that it was possible between the year 1790 and 1799 to call into existence four Institutions, whose special object was to train the Blind in an industry by which they might hope to earn their living. Those Institutions were:—Liverpool 1790; Bristol 1793; Edinburgh 1793; and London (St. George's) 1799.

The Institution in London, which has become known as the "St. George's School," owes its inception directly to the efforts of four gentlemen, viz., Thomas Boddington, Samuel Bosanquet, James Ware and William Houlston. The actual place of the School's introduction requires proof, but it is generally accepted to have been in a room of the "Dog and Duck," an old tavern in St. George's Fields, Southwark, S.E. Wherever it may have been, the fact remains that the three first-named gentlemen purchased the eleven remaining years of the unexpired lease on the property known as "St. George's Spa," and provision was made for fifteen resident blind persons to be "educated, maintained and taught a trade free of cost."

At the first Committee meeting, held on the 8th January, 1800, at St. Paul's Coffee House, St. Paul's Churchyard, it was resolved that the Institution should be established in the Metropolis, and be called "The School for the Indigent Blind." The address, "St. George's Fields," was subsequently added. Through the zeal and liberality of the Founders, who were joined by many of the leading gentlemen of the day, the Charity grew in favour and was placed on a solid footing. Within the first two or three years, it was decided that the pupils to be admitted to the School must be between the age of 10 and 18

years, and it would appear that as early as June, 1800, steps were taken to increase the accommodation by acquiring temporary premises in the immediate neighbourhood. It may be of passing interest to note that the first Instruction Superintendent, appointed on the 3rd March, 1803, was named Mr. Joshua Hill, from which fact we may conclude that the work was conducted by a Trade Instructor under the direct control of the Committee. In 1808, an idea was entertained to remove the School from Southwark to a property belonging to the Foundling Hospital in Gray's Inn Road, but this was never consummated, although I possess a wood engraving representing the School as actually transferred to Gray's Inn Road.

The pupils were admitted by the Votes of Subscribers, and the first election took place on the 2nd June, 1815, when H.R.H. the Duke of Kent occupied the Chair on the occasion of the Annual Dinner and Meeting of the Committee. It is also interesting to note that the "first Musical Exhibition" by the School Pupils was held on the 28th June, 1821.

The Charity was Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1826, and in the following year the freehold of the School site was acquired.

About this time the Committee decided to introduce mat-weaving as an Industry for the Blind, and as far as I am able to ascertain, this is the first intimation of blind people in the United Kingdom being occupied in such an Industry. In the following year the records show there were fifty-five males and fifty-five female pupils in the School, and it was decided that the period of residence in the Institution should be six years.

Extension of premises again became necessary and this was carried out on a large scale by the addition of a West Wing. An account of this from the *John Bull* newspaper, dated the 27th April, 1834, I venture to add.

"INDIGENT BLIND SCHOOL.—The Foundation Stone of the New Building was laid on Friday by the President, His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of a large number of Clergy and Subscribers to this excellent Charity. His Grace was attended by several of the Vice-Presidents, the

Treasurer and Committee, and the ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone was attended with the usual honour; Lord Auckland, Treasurer of the Mint, having granted the application of the Committee to deposit the coins of His Majesty's reign. The Archbishop and a large party assembled in the music room, when the performances of several of the pupils were conducted much to the satisfaction of His Grace. His Grace, after this performance, proceeded to the platform to lay the Foundation Stone, accompanied by the Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and the Committee. Before the Ceremony of depositing the Foundation Stone, the Architect, Mr. John Newman, submitted his plans and model to the Archbishop, who was pleased to express his approbation of them. The design of the building is of the domestic style of Gothic architecture, and the plans reflect great credit upon the Architect for his skill and ability in the arrangement of this new building."

. . . . The building, which was reared in 1834, continued with only small additions until it was vacated in 1902.

It was in 1834 that the Committee decided that all those who were educated in the Institution should be instructed in the "Alston" system to the exclusion of all other systems including "Frere" and "Lucas."

In the year 1872, an endeavour was made to remove the School into the country. Land was acquired at Coulsdon, Surrey, but after eleven years of negotiations the scheme was abandoned, and the Committee directed their attention to the perfecting of the premises in St. George's Fields. A Junior Branch School was established at Linden Lodge, Wandsworth Common, in the year 1880, and continued in operation for twenty-one years, when it was given up in consequence of the provision made by the Board of Education under the Compulsory Education Act for Blind and Deaf Children.

For many years the Committee felt it was desirable to acquire an Adult Workshop where ex-pupils could be employed at the trades they had learned while in training at the School, and the first mention of such a workshop was in 1860. Very soon after that time a small provision was made for the after-

employment of pupils, but the demand soon so much increased that in the year 1874 the basement of about half the School premises was set apart specially for the purpose.

Until the year 1884 there was no Institution Chapel. Services were held in a room subsequently known as the School-room, but in that year the Committee decided to erect a building at about the centre of the School property, and Mr. Blomfield was appointed Architect to design and Superintend the work.

Very few alterations were made in the Institution from that time until the School and site were purchased in 1901 by the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Company. In the following year the pupils were transferred to Leatherhead, where the Corporation had acquired freehold land on which an extensive building was reared out of the purchase-money received for the old site in London. The following is a record of the ceremony of the laying of the Foundation Stone and is taken from the *Times*, of the 14th November, 1901. . . .

THE NEW SCHOOLS, LEATHERHEAD. "Princess Christian yesterday visited Leatherhead for the purpose of laying the Foundation Stone of the New Buildings for the *School for the Indigent Blind*. The New Buildings are situate on a site 15 acres in extent. The main block will be completed in June, 1902, and as soon as possible after that date the Chapel, Sanatorium, Gymnasium and Laundry, will be ready for use. Princess Christian, who was accompanied by Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein and attended by Mrs. Dick-Cunyngham, was received at the South Western Station, Leatherhead, by Alderman Sir Joseph Savory. The members of the Urban Council were present, and an Address of Welcome was read by the Chairman. Having thanked the members of the Council for their Address, Her Royal Highness was driven to the School, escorted through the decorated streets by the C Company of the Surrey Yeomanry. At the School, a Guard of Honour was furnished by the 2nd V.B. East Surrey Regiment. The proceedings took place in a large marquee, erected in front of the school buildings, and were witnessed by a company numbering

about 700. Amongst those present were the Bishop of Winchester, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of London, Alderman and Sheriff J. C. Bell and Mrs. Bell, Mr. Sheriff H. B. Marshall and Mrs. Marshall, Major-General J. E. D. Hill (Chairman of the Corporation of the School), Colonel B. T. Bosanquet (Treasurer), Lord Ashcombe, Sir W. Vincent and Lady Vincent, Lady Bucknill, Alderman Sir David Evans and Lady Evans, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George A. Leach, Lady Lees, Lady Trevor Lawrence, Sir Francis Osborne and Lady Osborne, Sir J. Savory, Lady Graham Moon, Admiral E. Stanley Adeane and Lady Edith Adeane, Lady Humphreys, the Rev. St. Clare Hill (Principal), Mr. R. K. Causton, M.P., the Vicar of Leatherhead, and others. Major-General Hill, in opening the proceedings, said it was a striking coincidence that the foundation stone to be laid that day occurred in the first year of the reign of King Edward VII., and the old school in Southwark was opened in the first year of the reign of the late Queen Victoria. During the 101 years of its work the Institution had offered its benefits to more than 3,500 blind pupils. The New Buildings would accommodate 250 pupils and were so designed as to readily lend themselves to enlargement as the demand became felt. A song of welcome, written and composed by pupils of the school, was then sung by the blind choir, and after prayers by the Bishop of Winchester, Princess Christian laid the foundation stone. Princess Christian afterwards received a number of purses, about fifty being presented, including one of £300 by Major-General Hill."

Since the Corporation established the School at Leatherhead much has been done to increase its sphere of usefulness and to improve the physique of the pupils, the object in the minds of the Committee always being the same: "to render the Blind self-reliant." It may be interesting to insert here a copy of the inscription on the Marble Mural Tablet which is fixed in the Entrance Hall of the School, and which briefly records the history of the Charity from its origin to its removal to Leatherhead.

SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND, LEATHERHEAD, 1902.

Patrons—Their Majesties King Edward VIIth and Queen Alexandra.

Vice-Patron—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

In 1799, this School, one of the earliest Institutions in England for the training of the blind, was founded in St. George's Fields, in the Parish of St. George the Martyr, Surrey. The next year the Trustees leased from the City of London the premises known as St. George's Spa, where the first School was established, and accommodation provided for the reception of resident pupils to be educated and taught a trade free of cost.

In 1810-1811 the transfer of Bethlem Hospital to St. George's Fields necessitated the removal of the School to a leasehold site, obtained from the City of London, situated opposite the Obelisk, at the Southern end of Blackfriars Road, where a plain but commodious School House was erected.

In 1826 the School was incorporated by Royal Charter, and in the following year the freehold of the School site was acquired.

In 1832, the purchase of land in Lambeth Road enabled the Corporation of the School to re-model and extend the buildings in accordance with designs by Mr. John Newman, Architect, to accommodate 150 resident male and female pupils. By the addition of this and other land subsequently secured, the School site was increased to $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres with a frontage to what had become known as St. George's Circus.

In 1901, the School and its site having been purchased by the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Company, the Corporation acquired 15 acres of freehold land at Leatherhead, and on this site the present School was erected from designs by Mr. C. Pemberton Leach, Architect.

In 1902, the pupils were moved from St. George's Circus, and all the buildings, including Chapel, Sanatorium, Residence and Gymnasium were completed in 1904.

The Committee responsible for the selection of the site and erection of the present School were :—

Major General J. E. D. HILL, V.P., *Chairman*.

Admiral E. S. ADEANE, C.M.G.	STUART JOHNSON, Esq.
Rev. T. BASIL-WOODD, M.A.	Lt.-Col. Sir G. A. LEACH,
Lt.-Col. B. T. BOSANQUET,	K.C.B., R.E., V.P.
V.P., <i>Treasurer</i> .	Sir CAMPBELL MUNRO, Bart.
Rev. J. P. FAUNTHORPE, M.A.	J. G. PIDDINGTON, Esq.
HEATON C. HOWARD, Esq.,	Sir JOSEPH SAVORY, Bart.
M.R.C.S.	

Rev. ST. CLARE HILL, M.A.,

Chaplain and Principal.

On the 7th February, 1911, His Gracious Majesty King George V., signified his approval of the work done by the Corporation by granting to it the title "Royal," so that now the School is known as "The Royal School for the Indigent Blind." In the same month a further recognition of Royal favour was conferred by His Gracious Majesty becoming Patron. In the following year the Committee decided to build a Power House at the rear of the premises, whereby the whole of the Institution is not only heated by a system of low-pressure steam, but also lighted by electricity.

In the choice of a site for the New School the Committee decided to be controlled by regard to suitable elevation, soil and attractive surroundings; that these objects have been attained and that the pupils are to be congratulated on the selection of the Leatherhead site is the generally expressed opinion of visitors.

It may be of further interest to give an idea of the plan of the building, and for that purpose a sketch will be found in this publication. The building itself comprises two departments, Male and Female. Each one has a quadrangle of about 90 feet square, surrounded by the cloisters, which are used by the pupils for exercise in inclement weather. Opening into the Cloisters are the schoolrooms, the workshops and the dining rooms. In the centre of the block there are the central hall and the gymnasium, rooms used by both the male and female pupils and also the administration departments. The Chapel is on the east side of the main building and the Institution is so constructed that every part is available without going out-of-doors, with the exception of the sanatorium, which is found at one corner of the 20 acres of land on which the Institution stands. Under the cloisters are the sub-ways in which the heating, lighting, gas and water pipes are laid, and these sub-ways can be entered at suitable points when any necessary repairs are required without disturbing the structure.

The School grounds also fall into two sections. Each section consists of an open asphalte playing ground and asphalte paths or walks. In addition there are two fields for the pupils' use for games, etc.

The Industries taught at the present time are as follows:— On the male side.—Basket-making, chair-caning, mat and rug making, brush making, and pianoforte tuning; and on the female side:—needlework, knitting (hand), chair caning, brush making, sewing machine, sash line making, Japanese curtain work, knitting (automatic machine), and pianoforte tuning. A few of the pupils are taught music, but in consequence of the great difficulty of obtaining employment as teachers of pianoforte or organ, the Principal must be satisfied that a special aptitude for music is possessed before any pupil is drafted into that section.

Since the foundation of the Charity there have been seven Senior Officers variously described as “The Chaplain,” “The Chaplain or Secretary,” or “The Principal.” Two other interesting items of information may be mentioned; first, that a member of the Bosanquet family has been associated with the Corporation since its inception; and secondly, that Mr. Stuart Johnson’s family has been identified with the management since the year 1850.

The Committee are deeply concerned in the future success of ex-pupils, and to this end Certificates of proficiency are granted to those who have attained to “satisfactory” or “very good” standard of proficiency, and a record of old pupils is kept, so that the authorities may communicate with them from time to time. The Committee also supply those pupils who have gained a position in the first or second class of proficiency on leaving, with the necessary tools for carrying on their trade as well as with material at cost price.

When one comes to view the work done now with the modest ideas of the Founders of the Charity, there is room, not only for gratification, but also wonder at its development. Started a century ago with some half-a-dozen blind pupils, it has so grown, that now there is at Leatherhead accommodation for 250 pupils, with full opportunities as necessity arises for easy extension and enlargement.

A report of the development of the Charity would be incomplete without an expression of appreciation of the untiring

efforts of a long list of philanthropic ladies and gentlemen who have given of their leisure and of their means to further the benefits of that which has proved such a boon to a handicapped section of the community: secondly, without recording the gratitude on the part of the Blind themselves: and thirdly, without referring to the many successes which give testimony to the combined effect of philanthropic work and appreciative response.

In various parts of the world there are ex-pupils enjoying a success which never could have been attained but for the training and instruction they had previously received at an Institution which has carried on its beneficent work for a period of 114 years.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Undoubtedly the most important action ever taken to lessen the sum of human misery arising from blindness is the circular issued on 6th February by the Secretary of the Local Government Board, covering a general Order making ophthalmia neonatorum compulsorily notifiable in every sanitary district in England and Wales from April the 1st. The reason, given in the circular, for issuing the Order is "that from time to time during the past five years many local sanitary authorities have with the Board's approval, extended the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889 . . . and the disease is now compulsorily notifiable in a large number of sanitary districts, the aggregate population of these districts being nearly thirty millions. The Board are advised that general notification of this disease is desirable. A large proportion of the blindness contracted in childhood is due to the neglect of proper precautions against the disease, and, in the Board's view, it is important that Medical Officers of Health should have early information of all cases."

The late Dr. Roth was the first to make a special effort to prevent new-born children going blind from inflammation of the eyes when he founded in 1880 "The Society for Prevention of Blindness," and issued the leaflet "Advice to mothers who do not wish their children to be blind." This leaflet is the

foundation and framework of all subsequent leaflets, and was distributed gratuitously by the Society. Since 1886 over one hundred thousand copies of the leaflet, slightly amended, have been issued by the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and also, in addition, in 1900, 8,000 copies in Yiddish which were distributed by the Secretary of the Federation of Synagogues amongst the twenty-eight Synagogues in London with a request that a copy "should be forwarded to every one of the members of your Synagogue." The leaflet was also endorsed by the late Dr. Adler, the then Chief Rabbi, in the following words: "I hope that our mothers may follow the good counsels given above, so that their blessed children may grow up in health and strength by the help of Almighty God, who is the Healer of all flesh. Amen."

Many Institutions for the Blind have printed in their annual reports Dr. Roth's leaflet or some similar advice, but we feel assured that what has done more than anything else to bring about the recent Order, is the persistent way in which the various Unions of Societies for the Blind have brought the matter before the public, and especially the Sanitary Authorities, by interviews, by addresses, and by leaflets.

At the last meeting of the Executive Council of the Metropolitan Union of Societies for the Blind, a resolution was passed thanking the President of the Board of Trade for the very important step he took on the eve of his departure from the Local Government Board, and the Chairman of the Union having forwarded the resolution with an expression of thanks for an action that will save from blindness generations of children to come, received the following reply: "Dear Mr. Wilson, I am grateful to your Association and to its Council for the kindly letter and resolution which you have forwarded. Yours sincerely (signed) John Burns."

An illustrated pamphlet on Preventable Blindness, drawn up by Lady Campbell, has recently been published by the Metropolitan Union, and copies can be obtained gratuitously from the Organising Secretary, at the office, 63, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.



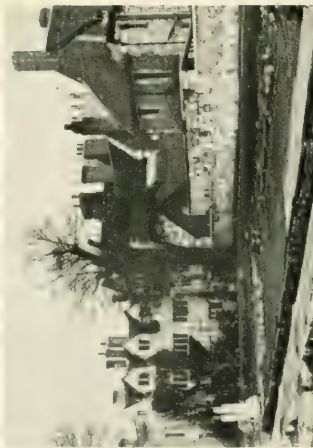
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FRONT ENTRANCE
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THE KING'S MANOR from the ABBEY GROUNDS



THE INNER COURT

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 68.

OCTOBER 20TH, 1914.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before January 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. Little did we dream when our last issue appeared, just 15 days before the outbreak of war, of the change that was about to take place in the condition of the country before we next went to press. We were then at peace, and most of us were looking forward to rest and change of scene for a few weeks, after a particularly heavy spell of work in connection with the Conference and other activities.

We are now, assisted by our brave Allies, engaged in a war with a powerful and unscrupulous foe, undertaken not only for the sake of our plighted word, though that in itself would have been an entirely sufficient motive had it existed alone, but also for our independence and the firm determination of every Briton that the Germans shall not come and take both our place and nation.

It is impossible in terms of human speech adequately to express one's admiration for the noble spirit of self-sacrifice and patriotism that seems to actuate all classes and all ranks, from those who go to give their lives for their country, if necessary, down to the humblest and meanest among us who, even if they have little, do their diligence gladly to give of that little.

May the men and women of Great Britain ever continue to shew this spirit of determined unity and concord in the face of a common foe, and may God defend the right!

2. On all sides we hear that the war is causing much distress, and particularly so amongst the Blind. They are of course, as a class, especially liable to suffer, and it is much to be feared that the workshops will have great difficulty in providing the usual amount of employment in consequence of so much of the material, such as bristles and rods, coming from the Continent. To meet this unexpected distress any funds, or orders for work, will be much welcomed by the Hon. Secs. of the 7 Unions of Societies for the Blind, who, being in touch with so many blind persons and knowing their actual necessities, are well qualified to administer the relief most needed. The names and addresses of the respective Hon. Secs. of the Unions are given in the Report of the Metropolitan Union, of which a copy can be obtained free on application to Miss Bennett, Room 63, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.

3. It is with much regret that we have to report the deaths of Mrs. Guyot and of Dr. Fletcher Little. The former was well-known to many of us as Miss Matilda Blott, when she kept a school for blind children in St. Charles Square, Notting Hill, and subsequently at 27, The Crescent, Barnes. She was totally blind, and a great friend of the late Dr. Armitage, and by him it was our privilege to be introduced to her. She had a very sweet temperament and pleasing manners, and was very successful with some of her pupils, whose affections she quickly won. She married, a few years ago, the Rev. C. Guyot, to whom she was a devoted and beloved wife. We tender to him our sincere sympathy in the loss he has sustained. Mrs. Guyot passed peacefully away on July 20th, and was interred at Evesham Cemetery.

Mr. John Fletcher Little, M.B., Cantab., M.R.C.P., London, died on the 9th of August, aged 71, and was cremated at Golders Green on August 13th. Dr. Fletcher Little was considered an expert in training persons as masseurs or masseuses, especially those who were blind, and in 1900 he took a prominent part in founding the National Institute for Massage by the Blind. He personally studied the Weir Mitchell

treatment in Philadelphia and the Nauheim treatment on the Continent. He remitted half his usual fee, when training the Blind, and he lived to see many of them holding important and lucrative posts. To those who were unable to obtain work, he strove hard to secure some employment, being convinced that the Blind can be thoroughly and efficiently trained in massage and are most capable operators, and that if they are only given an opportunity for showing their skill, they will be more generally employed. There are many instances where persons have been unwilling to engage these operators solely because they are blind, but on being persuaded to give them a trial, have been much pleased with their skill and quiet manners and have continued to employ them. One such special case is known to us where a lady engaged a blind masseuse only after much persuasion, and after a few weeks frankly acknowledged her reluctance was a mistake, and with great satisfaction retained the services of the woman for a long period. Dr. Little was always careful to take pupils on probation, as he contended that only blind persons should be trained, who had, or were capable of acquiring, certain qualifications and pleasant manners.

4. We also have to announce with very deep regret the death of the Venerable Archdeacon of Chester (Edward Barber). He was Chairman of the North-West Union of Societies for the Blind, and we know how deeply the Committee and especially the Hon. Secretary feel his loss. He took very great interest in all that was beneficial to the Blind, and was one of the representatives of the North-West Union on the Union of Unions, at which he was a regular attendant. His ever ready counsel, his judgment and advice will be especially missed by the Committee and Hon. Secretary of the North-West Union, over which he presided. He suffered very much at one time from his leg, which had to be removed, and latterly from his eyes, but nevertheless his temperament was most sweet and gentle, and he was beloved by all who knew him.

5. At a meeting of the Executive Council of the National Institute for the Blind, held on July 14th, Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, the Hon. Treasurer of the Institute, was unanimously elected its first President. We are informed that Mr. Pearson will continue to hold the office of Hon. Treasurer. During the present year he has been largely instrumental in bringing the cause of the Blind to general public notice, and in raising a considerable sum of money for the Building and Endowment Funds of the Institute. As a fitting recognition of these services he was elected President. Mr. Pearson's zeal, energy, and ability in raising funds are inexhaustible, and he is now most successfully engaged in this work for the Prince of Wales' National Relief Fund.

6. The following students at the Royal Normal College for the Blind have distinguished themselves, and reflect the highest credit on their respective teachers and on the College:—Wilfrid Kershaw has gained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, and has carried off the "Turpin Prize." This makes the eighteenth Fellowship gained by pupils of the Royal Normal College. The other seventeen are all successfully holding organ appointments in various parts of the country. In connection with the "Turpin Prize," Kershaw was second out of 119 candidates. This is the first time that the prize has been won by a blind person. The "Carte Prize" has been twice formerly won by pupils of the College, and the "Sawyer Prize" once.

Arthur Rablen and Marshall Pearson gained their Associateship, and Maud Steel has been successful in passing her theoretical examination. The total number of Associateships gained by students of the College is twenty-nine.

On July 18th Edward Burton, Thomas Clarke, Frederick Hemmings, Arthur Rablen, and Reginald Robertson gained their Proficiency Certificates for ability to save life, in accordance with the requirements of the Royal Life Saving Society. This brings the number of certificates won by the College up to thirty-five, while the number of medallions is sixteen.

7. At the recent examination at Durham University Thomas William Platt and Frederick William Andrews, both students of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, were successful in passing their finals for the degree of Bachelor of Music, and took their degree at the Convocation at the University on September 26th, being warmly complimented by the Examiners for the excellence of their work.

Both the "Bachelors" are twenty-two years of age, and have been pupils in the elementary school at Henshaw's Asylum as children, passing on to the Music School at sixteen, where they have since proved exemplary students. They thoroughly deserve the success they have achieved, which is, we believe, unique in the history of any School for the Blind in this country. Their Music Master, Mr. Isaac Davidson, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., is to be highly complimented on his pupils; and also the Board of Management on possessing a College of Music that can produce such splendid results.

It is also pleasing to note that two ex-students of Henshaw's Blind Asylum have recently secured excellent appointments as Organists. Mr. George Hilditch, A.R.C.O., has been appointed to the Parish Church of Urmston, and Mr. Alfred Wrigley, L.R.A.M., to St. Luke's Parish Church, Manchester.

8. Mr. W. R. Carter has been an active and devoted worker on behalf of the Blind, having been Chairman and Hon. Sec. of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind since its inception, and it was therefore with much pleasure that we heard that he had been presented by the members of the Committee with a portrait of himself, and that a replica had also been presented to the School.

Mr. Carter feels compelled to relinquish his work as Chairman, but for the present has kindly consented to continue to act on the Committee and as Hon. Secretary.

9. At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind, held on July 17th, the following were elected examiners for 1915, viz., Miss Garaway,

the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. A. Pearson, Ritchie, and Stone. Mr. Pine was appointed Moderator.

The next examination of the College will be held at the Yorkshire School for the Blind, York, by kind permission of the Committee, on or about May 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1915.

10. The annual prize festival of the Royal Normal College for the Blind was held on July 25th, when Lady Lamington presided. She referred to the recent death of Sir Francis Campbell, and said that for his splendid work there ought to be a thankoffering to assist the cause to which he devoted his life. The visitors had an opportunity of inspecting the various departments of the educational and physical work, and much appreciated an excellent concert that had been arranged. The prizes were presented by Lady Campbell.

11. The Annual Speech Day in connection with the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, took place in the Gymnasium of the College on July 21st. Before the distribution of the prizes, Mr. W. Wolstenholme, an old pupil, gave an organ recital which was much appreciated. Then the Trial Scene in "The Merchant of Venice" was very well recited by some of the pupils who had been specially coached by Miss G. M. Southwell. After the recitation the chair was taken by Lord Cobham, who congratulated the boys on their performance and said that the Governors could speak with very great satisfaction of the appointment of Mr. G. C. Brown as headmaster, who had in five terms raised the number of pupils from 3 to 15. The headmaster made a statement referring to the difficulties he had had to contend with and mentioned that a swimming bath was much needed. He also warmly thanked the staff for their loyal co-operation. Canon Chappel said that he had examined the pupils at the College and was much struck by the intelligence shewn in some of the English work. He then distributed the prizes.

On July 22nd, a four-oared boat race took place between the old and present boys, and the latter with the headmaster as

cox, won easily. In the afternoon the athletic sports took place, and the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Southwell.

12. The Examination of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships tenable at the Royal Normal College, will henceforth be held three times a year, in the first week of March, July and December. Intending candidates should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th February, June and November, respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

13. It may be remembered that in our Spring number last year we printed a paper read by Miss Harris Browne (171, Queen's Gate, S.W.), at the annual meeting of the Metropolitan Union, on the employment of blind women and girls. In this paper there was outlined a scheme for co-operation among those interested in the welfare of the Blind, suggesting that the establishment of a central dépôt might solve many difficulties. Quiet but steady progress has been made on these lines. Recently the outbreak of the war, bringing with it a large demand for just those things blind women and girls can make, has afforded an unexpected opportunity for extending the work.

Thanks to the kindly and most helpful interest of the ladies at the headquarters of the Red Cross Society, 83, Pall Mall, and at the Kensington Town Hall, the enterprise has already met with an unexpected measure of success.

The time has been so short, and the conditions are so abnormal, that Miss Harris Browne is diffident of speaking of her achievements. But she tells us that she has received the greatest encouragement from the cordial acceptance of the idea by all the Managers of Institutions for the Blind, with whom she has, as yet, been able to come into contact. It is only with the assurance of their help that there can be any hope of keeping the home-worker up to the standard of her School training, and securing for her regular employment.

Miss Harris Browne is well known to our readers as a most earnest and successful worker amongst the Blind.

14. Mrs. Goodhart, who has organised most successfully the County of Berkshire for the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union (Incorporated) has come to reside in London, and has kindly consented to be Hon. Organising Secretary for the Counties in the area of the Union. She has already begun active work in one County.

15. Mr. W. H. Thurman, General Superintendent and Secretary of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, has visited the 440 adult Blind on the roll of the local Home Teaching Society with the exception of the 67 employees, and has prepared a most valuable and exhaustive report of which we have been kindly favoured with a copy. The following interesting particulars are culled from the report:—249 are living in their own homes or in lodgings, and 124 are in Work-houses or Infirmaries. Of the 124 inmates 79 were unable to read, 24 could read Moon type, and 4 Braille, and of the 249 living in their own homes 90 could not read, 100 could read Moon type, and 47 Braille. Over £1,000 are distributed annually in pensions from various Societies amongst the members of the Adult Blind branch in addition to nearly £500 received from Old Age Pensions. Two blind visitors are employed.

16. H.M. The King honoured the Institution for the Blind at Dundee with a visit last July, and through the kindness of one of the Directors of the Institute, each of the inmates has been presented with a copy of the address from the Blind and His Majesty's reply. The address is an excellent one, drawn up by Mr. Macdonald and approved by the inmates, and we wish we had space to reproduce it *in extenso*. The copies, of which we have been kindly presented with one, are exceedingly well and neatly got up, and are much appreciated by the inmates.

17. It is with very great regret that we have to announce that the Royal Institute for the Blind in Sunderland was compelled to close its doors on July 7th, as notwithstanding

Mr. T. W. Backhouse's most generous support, the local financial assistance was inadequate. A meeting of the General Committee was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Backhouse, and a communication was issued setting forth the decision arrived at and appealing to the public for "the requisite financial aid in order that the Institute may be re-organized." We understand that thirty blind men and fifteen blind women are thus thrown out of work, but it is pleasing to hear that the Council of the National Institute for the Blind have come forward and undertaken the responsibility of paying the work-people their respective average weekly wages during their enforced idleness and until the Institute is re-organized and placed on a sound financial basis. An appeal is to be made in Sunderland and the County of Durham to raise the necessary funds for this object. The Institute was founded in 1877 by Miss Ada Byers.

18. During 1913 and 1914 interesting and reliable histories of the following eight Institutions for the Blind have been given in *The Blind*, viz.:

1913.

- January. The Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood, by Lady Campbell, F.C.T.B.
- April. The Royal School and Asylum for the Blind, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, by Mr. W. M. Stone.
- July. The Workshops for the Blind, Belfast, by Mr. J. H. Hewitt.
- October. The School for the Blind, Liverpool, by the late Rev. T. W. M. Lund.

1914.

- January. The Royal School for the Blind, Bristol, by the Rev. C. F. Hardy.
- April. The Royal School for the Indigent Blind, Leatherhead, by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, F.C.T.B.
- July. The Royal Asylum for the Blind, Glasgow, by Mr. T. Stoddart.
- October. The School for the Blind, York, by Mr. A. B. Norwood, M.A.

and arrangements have been made for the following papers during 1915, viz.:

- January. Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, by the Superintendent, Mr. W. H. Illingworth, F.C.T.B.
- April. The Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, by the Secretary, Mr. H. W. P. Pine, F.C.T.B.
- July. The Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, by the General Superintendent and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Thurman.
- October. The Royal Institution for the Blind, Bradford, by the Manager and Secretary, Mr. M. Priestley.
-

19. We understand that the official report of the International Conference held last June is well in hand, and that the proceedings of the last day were being set up in type about 10 days ago. The report has, however, to be very carefully read through, and an index made.

20. A minute of the Board of Education, dated the 17th July, 1914, modifying the Regulations applicable to Schools for Blind, Deaf, Defective and Epileptic Children, dated the 19th of July, 1909, as already modified by the Minute dated 27th June, 1910, has been issued.

PREFATORY NOTE.

1.—The main purposes of this Minute are:—

- (a) To provide for the payment as from the 1st April, 1914, of increased grants for Schools for Blind, Deaf, Defective and Epileptic Children.
- (b) To establish a uniform School Year commencing on the 1st April, 1915.

2.—The effect of the Minute on the date of payment of grant will be generally as follows:—

- (a) During the Financial Year commencing on the 1st April, 1914, grants will be paid in respect of School years ending between the 30th April, 1914, and the 31st December, 1914, inclusive.

(b) During the Financial Year commencing on the 1st April, 1915, grants will be paid in respect of School years ending between the 31st January, 1915, and the 31st March, 1915, inclusive, and also for all broken periods ending on the 31st March, 1915.

(c) During the Financial Year commencing on the 1st April, 1916, grants will be paid in respect of the uniform School Year ending on the 31st March, 1916.

19.—(a) The grant payable each year for a Certified School for blind or deaf children is as follows :

(i) At the rate of £7 for each unit of average attendance in a Certified Day School.

(ii) At the rate of £13 for each unit of average attendance in a Certified Boarding School.

The above is only an extract from the Minute. In reference to the question of increased grants, there is no doubt that we all owe much to Mr. W. H. Illingworth's prompt action. On hearing from Mr. Nelson, Principal of the Royal School for the Deaf in Manchester, in November last, that those interested in the education of the Deaf were going to hold a Conference at Derby, with a view to approaching the Board of Education, Mr. Illingworth asked Mr. Nelson whether representatives of the Blind might also join in order to present an united front. Mr. Nelson and his colleagues gladly acceded to the request, and Mr. Illingworth wrote at once to many representatives of the Blind in the district and invited them to attend the Conference at Derby. This Conference was held on November 22nd, with much enthusiasm, and a Committee of seven was appointed to arrange for a deputation to the President of the Board of Education and to prepare a statement of statistics, arguments, &c. This Committee at its first meeting appointed three members, viz., Mr. Nelson, Mr. Story, and Mr. Illingworth, to draw up the statement and to arrange for the deputation, which took place on Friday, January 23rd of this year. Mr. Illingworth's action in taking the initiative to form a joint deputation not only obtained the increased grant for the Blind much sooner than might otherwise have been the

case, but also helped the Deaf to present their case more forcibly.

The result of the deputations is the issue of the above Minute, and must be considered most satisfactory.

It will also be remembered that in July, 1890, Mr. Illingworth was one of a deputation of three—the other two being Mr. W. Martin and Mr. James Sime, both of whom have since died—to wait on the Right Hon. A. J. Mundella and the Lord Advocate for Scotland at the House of Commons to discuss the provisions of the Bill upon which the Blind and Deaf Mute Education Act (Scotland) 1891 was based.

21. Lady Campbell, to whom all interested in the Alfred Hirst Memorial Fund, are deeply grateful for kindly acting as Hon. Treasurer, wishes to thank all who have contributed to the Memorial, and reports that the total amount collected is £334 18s. od.

Of this sum £90 8s. od. was subscribed by friends in Whitby, £56 16s. 6d. in Huddersfield, £41 1s. od. in Australia, £50 by the Clothworkers' Company, and the remainder by friends in other localities.

The expenses were—Printing £1 5s. od., Cyclostyling 8s., Bank charges on cheques 1s., making a total of £1 14s. od.

The nett amount of £333 4s. od. is to be invested by the Whitby Trustees, and the income thereon is to be used for providing two "Alfred Hirst Memorial Pensions."

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

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Pyman, Mr. W. H. S., J.P.	Wilson, Miss E.
Pyman, Mr. F. H., J.P.	Wilson, Canon J. M.
	Wilson, Mr. H. J.

22. The Paper entitled "The Work of the Unions of Societies for the Blind in England and Wales," read by Mr. Henry J. Wilson before the International Conference on the Blind, held in London last June, has been published as a pamphlet, and copies can be obtained gratis on application at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The maps in the pamphlets showing the area of the various Unions were kindly given by Miss Beatrice Taylor.

23. This number completes the 17th year of the issue of this magazine. No. 1 consisted of 12 pages, and the present one has 38 pages and a frontispiece. The four numbers in the first year (1898) consisted of 75 pages, whereas the four numbers in the present year contain 98 pages.

24. The Vice-President of the Argentine Republic has appointed a Commission to direct the Argentine Institution for the Blind, and we are glad to see that Mr. Jose P. Mendoza is one of the members. The Commission of this National Institution is directed to take charge of everything connected with the Blind and to carry into effect as quickly as possible the law 9339.

Before 1891, nothing had been done for the Blind, but in that year, Francisco Gatti, who was blind, came to the country after having been educated at Naples and at the Conservatoire of Music and he taught the Blind in the Orphan Asylum at Buenos Aires. Later on he opened a Private School for the Blind at Flores, which in 1909 received government assistance and was called the National Institute for the Blind. Miss San Roman was appointed director and still carries on the School, but for many reasons has been unable to extend the work. It was on account of this that last year Dr. L. Agote presented the Bill, which Congress sanctioned.

25. We have received a letter from Miss Ida Verrill, Superintendent of the Shattuck School for the Blind, which is supported by the American Mission at Ourfa, Turkey, and she kindly sent us most fascinating photographs of two little Syrian girls totally blind, and also a most interesting report of the school, from which we make the following extracts. Our readers will be interested to know that Miss Haroutunian, who is doing such splendid work as Head Teacher, was trained at the Royal Normal College :—

“We are looking with longing eyes for a school building outside the city, with dry, airy, sunny rooms and a yard with a degree of freedom. In the city we have cramped quarters with no outlook for enlargement. But we are much better off than

we were several years ago, when, with leaky roofs, the teacher had to listen to recitations with an umbrella over her head.

"We doubt if there is in all Turkey a school whose object is like ours—to train teachers for the Blind.

"Miss Mary Haroutunian, the Head Teacher, Miss Shattuck well knew as child and student, and because of her association with Miss Shattuck many people in America and England also know her. It is not necessary to speak of her ability and devotion to this work, but hundreds of people know that the best of her life has been and is still being given to this important cause, perhaps the greatest because it involves the greatest need, and that certainly exists here in Ourfa in this Shattuck School for the Blind."

IN MEMORIAM.

SIR FRANCIS J. CAMPBELL.

It is with the deepest sorrow, and yet with a sorrow that has in it a sound of triumph and even of rejoicing, that we take up our pen to record the loss of that noble pioneer of work for the Blind, Sir Francis Campbell, Founder and for more than forty years Principal of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, Upper Norwood. We say advisedly triumph and rejoicing, though in the midst of grief, for to have seen a noble example of one who made his own terrible deprivation a stepping-stone to aid and lift up hundreds of those in his own generation similarly afflicted, and countless others who shall come after him, is indeed matter for rejoicing and thankfulness to those who watched a great life reach its earthly close surrounded by love and honour, its aims accomplished, and its ceaseless warfare for good crowned with victory. The writer of this article had the privilege of knowing Sir Francis Campbell for more than thirty-two years, and finds it almost an impossible task to express in words all that his life has meant for the Blind, whose cause he advanced to a degree unknown before, overcoming obstacles that seemed insurmountable, removing difficulties of every shape and form, and ever ready with fresh ideas and fresh struggles to carry out those plans that his far sighted perception judged necessary and beneficent. Through his own continuous and

thorough work, he had an extraordinary faculty for inspiring others with the same spirit, and an interview with him invariably left one with the feeling of being goaded on to more strenuous effort on behalf of the Blind, and a sense almost of shame that he, handicapped as he was, should make other efforts seem to fall so lamentably short of what they should be. He had that noblest of qualities, a simple unconsciousness of his own greatness, a quality only to be seen in the highest and finest of characters. To him the work was everything—Sir Francis Campbell was nothing—and because he was great, he had a simple faith in the greatness of every one with whom he had to do, and this faith times without number called out the “divine spark” that but for him might have remained latent and undeveloped. The boy or girl who came under his care, left him at the close of the course not only technically trained, but inspired to look to noble ends and high ideals of life, and instead of cowering in darkness and helplessness, literally to arise and call him blessed.

Francis Joseph Campbell was born in Franklin County, Tennessee, one of the Southern States of America, in October, 1832. At birth his sight was normal, but when between three and four years of age, he was blinded by the sharp thorn of an acacia tree running into his eye when at play. Inflammation set in and spread to the other eye, and in a few months the sight had gone never to return. He often told a touching story of his mother's taking him out every night just before he went to bed to see the stars from the piazza of their house, till that dark night came when the curtain between him and God's glories of the heavens was drawn for ever, and he could remember his mother's tears falling on his face as she carried him up to bed. As he grew older, the compulsory idleness in which he lived became harder and harder to bear, and he used to wander off on the road to the school attended by his brothers and sisters, and “sit listening for the far off voices of those happy boys and girls coming back from their lessons.” It must, indeed, have been a long and weary discipline in patience for the ardent spirit that longed for action both mental and physical, but

finally when he was about twelve years of age, a school for the Blind was opened at Nashville, and little Campbell was admitted. From that hour, through many discouragements and disappointments, his progress in learning was rapid, and difficulties vanished when met by steady and unflagging determination in a manner that seemed almost miraculous. Most especially was this the case with music, for which he had been told he was a hopeless subject, but he said quaintly enough that when he was barely eighteen, he was appointed teacher of music in the very institution where he had first been told he could never learn music. This incident is illustrative of the man's whole career. With him failure was next to impossible, for he never knew when he was beaten, but returned again and again to the charge till his idea had been perfected and carried out in practice.

After residence at Harvard as a student, Francis Campbell returned to Tennessee, and arrived in the midst of the excitement that attended every Presidential election in the decade preceding the American Civil War. From his youth he had realised the evils of slavery, and it was known that he advocated its abolition. His anti-slavery sentiments were so obnoxious to his fellow-citizens that his life was in serious danger, and though it was spared owing to his blindness, his pupils ceased entirely to attend his classes for music, and ruin stared him in the face. Under the circumstances, there was nothing for it but to leave Tennessee, and accordingly he went first to the Institution for the Blind in Wisconsin, and afterwards to Boston, where he found employment at the Perkins Institution for the Blind. Here he remained as head of the musical department for eleven years, during which time the great Civil War in America took place. At the end of that time, in 1869, his health shewed signs of serious injury, and he went to Europe with a year's leave with the object of fully restoring it.

Strange are the uses of adversity! Francis Campbell little knew that this breakdown in health was to result in the finding of his life's work, and the lasting benefit of thousands of blind fellow sufferers. After many months spent on the Continent in continuing his musical studies at Leipsic and Berlin and

studying the methods of the best Institutions for the Blind he came to London, intending to sail for America in a few days. By that which we short-sighted mortals too easily call a mere chance, some one who happened to be staying in the same hotel with himself, asked him to go to a tea party for the blind, from which he came back to his hotel wretched at the thought of the wretchedness of the Blind whom he had met, their dulness, their hopelessness as to the outlook life presented to them, their sad, unoccupied days. The very next day he was introduced to Dr. Armitage, the "Friend of the Blind," the wise pioneer and generous promoter of all that made for their true welfare, and from that introduction and quickly formed and devoted friendship Francis Campbell found it possible to take his first step onward in the glorious career that, though he knew it not, awaited him.

In February, 1872, a start was made with a few pupils in three small houses that had been taken in Paxton Terrace, close to the low level Crystal Palace Station, but in the next year the site on which the College now stands was purchased, and the Royal Normal College for the Higher and Musical Education of the Blind, Upper Norwood, came into existence.

Since then the history of Francis Campbell has been the history of the College. His energy was inexhaustible, his indomitable courage and perseverance in combating and overcoming the disadvantages of blindness simply marvellous, and worthy of all admiration. To be a successful headmaster is difficult at all times, but for a blind man to be such a headmaster as Francis Campbell became, with such signal and striking results as shewn in the after history of the pupils of the College, is not only phenomenal but unparalleled.

It would not be possible in this brief notice to give a detailed account of the work achieved by the College during the forty years of his headmastership. An enormous percentage of the students who have gone through the whole course have become self-supporting men and women and capable and helpful citizens in all quarters of the world. But for the genius and self-devoted labours of Francis Campbell, the services of these

blind members of our community would have been lost, and their days passed in sad and listless vacuity till death came to release them. We have necessarily omitted some striking events in the life of Francis Campbell, such as the wonderful daring and resolution shewn in his ascent of Mont Blanc and other mountains, the concerts given before Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle, and others at St. James's, Queen's, and Albert Halls, and at the Guildhall and the Crystal Palace. At the last concert given in the Albert Hall, their Majesties, King Edward and Queen Alexandra, were present, accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Victoria, and the Landgraf of Hesse. From year to year the College grew and developed under Dr. Campbell's unceasing devotion in every department of its activities, and there was no rest for anyone until the very best methods had been found by practice and experience, and carried out in the very best possible manner in the teaching of music, pianoforte tuning, physical training, type-writing, etc. As was well said in a paper written on the work of the College only last year, "In all schools and institutions there is a danger of falling into ruts, but the Principal and Staff of the College have been eager to avoid that danger, ready to examine new methods of teaching, and prompt to adopt those that proved worthy of acceptance."

And so we draw gradually towards the end of this noble life, which as Christians we can believe with joy and thankfulness was only taken from among us to continue its beneficent labours elsewhere, free at last from the heavy trial and disability from which it had suffered in this world. In the year 1909 His Majesty King Edward VII. was graciously pleased to bestow upon Dr. Campbell the honour of knighthood, in recognition of his unparalleled services in the cause of the Blind, and it is not too much to say that the rejoicing in this well deserved honour was world wide. From every quarter of the globe came letters testifying to the gladness felt by old students and all friends interested in the Blind, and so many telegrams of congratulation were received that the writer remembers hearing the fact that the telegraph boy at last said in despair that

he thought he had better sit in the office for awhile and let them accumulate before he took another journey. In October of the same year a complimentary dinner was given, with Sir Francis and Lady Campbell as the guests of honour, at Holborn Town Hall, when Lord Kinnaird took the chair, and it was attended by representatives from all parts of Great Britain.

This article would not be complete without touching upon recent developments of work for the Blind in which the subject of our memoir took a leading part, such as the institution of the College of Teachers of the Blind, of which he was an original Fellow, and the Metropolitan and other Unions of Societies for the Blind, following closely on the establishment of the North of England Union, the first to lead the way. Sir Francis, with his remarkable gift of what we may almost call second sight in all matters relating to the Blind, at once perceived the enormous benefit that might result from these Unions, and called the meeting together at which the resolution was taken to follow the example of the North of England, and found the Metropolitan and other Unions now at work.

Slowly, gradually, most peacefully, the end drew near. In Mrs. Gaskell's fine novel, "Mary Barton," there is an old friend of the heroine's who, as her life also is quietly approaching its close in old age amidst some natural weakening and dimming of its faculties, says with a fine and noble patience, "I sometimes think I am a child whom the Lord is hushabying to my long sleep. For when I were a nurse girl my missis always telled me to speak very soft and low, to darken the room that her little one might go to sleep; and now all noises are hushed and still to me, and the bonny earth seems dim and dark, and I know its my Father lulling me away to my long sleep." And so we may most surely say it was with Sir Francis Campbell. As was well said by the Rev. J. M. Witherow in the address delivered at the Funeral Service, "Their friend and father had weakened perceptibly during the last twelve months. Tended by loving hands he suffered little pain. Those about him and those who saw him knew that he was waiting, quietly waiting, and quite ready. He had heard God's mild curfew. His long and

glorious work was done. His face was set towards home. We sorrow very deeply and tenderly with those whose loss is sorest. They and some of us present will miss the old man for many and many a day. Otherwise, dear friends, there is no cause for tears. A strong, full, pure, beneficent life passes out in love and peace, with the sustained beauty and finish of perfect music. The melody ceases, but not the joy, and with the musician the melody abides for ever. Let us take courage. Let us thank God for this brave and good man, who from his own affliction drew power to comfort so many hearts, and has now passed out of this world's darkness into the eternal light."

Sir Francis Campbell passed away on Tuesday, June 30th, surrounded on his death bed as he had been in life by the love and devotion of his wife, his two sons, and his two daughters-in-law. Another son was in Philadelphia, and the youngest son was in Montreal. The funeral took place on July 4th, the Service being held at St. Andrew's Church, and attended by a large congregation. The music was finely and touchingly rendered by the choir of the Royal Normal College, and Mr. Eyre, organist of St. John's, presided at the organ. The many wreaths and crosses, the show of which can only be described as magnificent, were, with the exception of the few actually upon the coffin, massed in glowing beauty in front of the reading desk, and gave their fragrant witness to the love and honour universally felt for the one who had gone from among us. The wonder of their loveliness brought to mind Him who said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life: he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live." Ever shall we "praise Him as our days go on" for Francis Campbell's life, and thank that life

" For helping us in thrall,
For words of hope, and bright examples given
To shew through moonless skies that there is light in Heaven."

Our task is done. None knows better than the writer how faint, how inadequate has been the presentment of this great career, but it has at least been written in love, admiration and sorrow for one whose magnificent work for the Blind was a perpetual inspiration for over thirty years.

Nor would it be complete without a few words of deep and heart-felt sympathy with her who was literally the guiding star in his darkness, his unfailing counsellor and devoted wife, to whose powers of head and heart he owed the happiness of his life, whether domestic, social, or professional. Our readers will feel this acknowledgement her simple due, and join with us in the assurance that with her we mourn his loss, and with her we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory that he has but exchanged this life for the fulness of blessedness for evermore.

THE YORKSHIRE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND
(Wilberforce Memorial).

Instituted 1833.

By **Mr. A. B. NORWOOD, M.A.,** Principal.

The origin of the Yorkshire School for the Blind is explained in the following inscription taken from the pedestal on which stands the marble bust of William Wilberforce, by the Sculptor, S. Joseph, facing the visitor on his entering the Institution :—

In Memory of
WILBERFORCE,
The Christian Philanthropist,
A Native of Yorkshire,
And its Representative in Parliament
for XXX years,
Who, devoting his eloquence
To the service of humanity,
Led public opinion
To abolish the Slave Trade,
The County of York Founded
This School for the Blind
A.D. MDCCCXXXIII.

William Wilberforce died after a short illness on the 29th July, 1833, and a meeting of gentlemen assembled from every part of the County of Yorkshire was held at York on the 3rd October, at which the following resolutions were adopted :—

1. "That the great abilities of the late William Wilberforce, industriously exerted to the latest hour of his life in the genuine spirit of Christianity for the attainment of objects of the most enlarged benevolence, have acquired for his memory the veneration of his fellow-citizens.

2. "That the connection so long subsisting between Mr. Wilberforce and this County, which he represented in six successive parliaments, during a period of twenty-eight years, calls upon us to transmit to our posterity some memorial of a character so worthy of the imitation of those who engage in public life.

3. "That while this meeting highly approve of a plan which has been proposed for erecting a column to the memory of Mr. Wilberforce at Hull, his native town, they are of opinion that there should also be a memorial of him placed in a situation in which the inhabitants of the several districts of this great county feel a common interest."

A General Committee consisting of the Lord Chancellor (Lord Brougham de Vaux), the Archbishop of York, with other noblemen and gentlemen from various parts of the County was appointed to carry this design into effect, and at a meeting of this General Committee it was further determined :—

"That the general sense of the public appears to be in favour of a Yorkshire School for instructing the indigent Blind, and educating them in habits of industry, and that in concurrence with that feeling the subscriptions which may be raised shall be applied to the founding of such an Institution at York."

In pursuance of this resolution an important and exhaustive address on the subject was drawn up by the Rev. Canon Harcourt, dated the 23rd November, 1833, and signed by him on behalf of the Committee and issued to the public.

Public meetings were in consequence called and Committees in support of the proposed memorial established in the principal towns in Yorkshire. The public meeting for York took place in the Guildhall on Monday, 25th November, 1833, and was presided over by the Lord Mayor (Alderman Barber).

Resolutions were spoken to by the Rev. W. Vernon Harcourt, the Rev. James Parsons, the Rev. John Graham, Mr. Thomas Barstow, Mr. Alderman Dales, Mr. Joseph Munby, Mr. Samuel Tuke, Mr. P. B. Thompson, M.P., Mr. David Russell, the Rev. W. H. Dixon, and Mr. H. E. Grimston, and the City was divided into four wards, with a Sub-Committee for each, for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions. As the result of these combined efforts throughout the County such an amount of contributions was obtained as enabled the Central Committee to announce on the 10th February, 1834, that the sum raised in subscriptions appeared to them to justify the establishment of the proposed Institution.

A General Meeting of the subscribers was then held at the Guildhall, York, on Wednesday, 26th March, 1834, the Earl of Feversham in the chair, at which the Rt. Hon. Earl Fitzwilliam, a descendant of Thomas, Viscount Wentworth, better known as the great Earl of Strafford, President of the Council of the North 1628-1640, was elected President of the proposed Memorial Institution, and the Archbishop of York, the Duke of Leeds, the Duke of Sutherland, the Earl of Carlisle, the Earl of Tyrconnel, the Earl of Harewood, Viscount Morpeth, M.P., Lord Stourton, Lord Middleton, Lord Dundas, Lord Wharncliffe, Lord Feversham, Lord Brougham, with the Chairman of the several Local Committees, were invited to accept the office of Vice-Presidents.

On 15th July, 1834, the first Managing Committee was elected as follows:—

Messrs. Joseph Agar, Thomas Barstow, Robert Cattle, Francis Cholmeley, Rev. John Graham, William Gray, Jonathan Gray, Wm. Oldfield, Wm. Prest, David Russell, P. Bielby Thompson, R. J. Thompson, Samuel Tuke, Rev. John Graham, Rev. James Parsons, and Rev. C. Wellbeloved, with Mr. Robert Davies as Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. Joseph Munby as Hon. Secretary; and at the same meeting it was resolved, "That in consideration of the valuable services which the Rev. Wm. Vernon Harcourt has rendered to the Institution, he be requested to accept the office of one of the Vice-Presidents."

It is interesting to note that the first meeting of the Managing Committee was held on 11th August, 1834, and there were present— The Rev. Wm. Vernon Harcourt (Chairman), Mr. Wm. Gray, the Rev. C. Wellbeloved, Mr. Samuel Tuke, Mr. Robert Davies (Hon. Treasurer), and Mr. Joseph Munby (Hon. Secretary), names still honoured and revered for devotion to the causes of learning and philanthropy.

A property of the Crown, called the King's Manor, contiguous to the City of York, was regarded as possessing peculiar advantages for the accommodation of such an Institution, and, as the existing lease was on the point of expiring, the Committee applied to the Government for a grant of the buildings and the ground connected with them, under the provisions of an Act of Parliament which authorises such grants to District Schools. The application was favourably entertained by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury; but a legal objection from the Office of Woods and Forests prevented its success, and ultimately the Committee accepted an offer of a lease of the property for 99 years at an annual ground rent of £115. And yet, at about the same date, the freehold of another part of the King's Manor exempt from rent was granted by a gift from the Crown for use as a National School for the education of sighted children! This school for boys is still carried on in the same buildings under the name of the Manor School.

The property thus acquired comprised five tenements, the sub-tenants of which were entitled to occupy them till April, 1836. The Committee, however, made such arrangements as enabled them to commence in May, 1835, the alterations requisite for adapting the premises to the use of the Institution, and to enter on the following October into occupation of such a portion of them as was necessary for the opening of the School.

A word must here be said as to the history of the King's Manor.

The King's Manor is the name given to the large and irregular pile of buildings which stand upon the site, and, indeed, in some details, form part of which was originally the residence of the Lord Abbot of St. Mary's Abbey.

In the year 1087 Stephen, a monk of Whitby, who had previously restored St. Hilda's Abbey, Whitby, and afterwards the Priory of Lastingham, being still pursued by the enmity of his former patron, Earl Percy, made his way to York and founded the Abbey of St. Olave, the dedication of which was afterwards changed to that of most Benedictine Houses, St. Mary the Virgin.

In the year 1538 the Abbey was suppressed and despoiled, and the Abbot's house was granted by the King as the official residence of the President of the then newly-formed Great Council of the North, and its name was changed to that of "The King's Mannour." Alterations, additions and restorations were effected by various Presidents, principally by the Earl of Sussex and the Earl of Huntingdon in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the Earl of Sheffield in the reign of James I; and by the great Earl of Strafford in the reign of Charles I. Not many days before Lord Strafford's execution in 1641 the Court of the Great Council of the North was abolished, and the King's Manor was committed to the charge of an officer who was styled "The Keeper of the House within the site of the late Monastery of the Blessed Mary, near the walls of the City of York." At the siege of York in 1644 the Manor was occupied by a Royalist garrison, whilst upon the accession of James II it had a narrow escape from being converted into a Roman Catholic College. At this time a large room in the Manor was fitted up and used as a Chapel where Mass was openly celebrated. Shortly afterwards the grant of King James II became void, and in 1692 a lease of the whole domain was granted to Robert Waller, attorney-at-law, for thirty-one years at an annual rental of ten shillings. Waller soon began to make a profit by his bargain, by converting the Manor buildings into separate dwelling-houses and letting them to respectable tenants. Other parts were let for workshops or warehouses and other meaner purposes. In the year 1696 a mint for coining silver money was set up in one of the rooms, and carried on its operations for two or three years.

Early in the eighteenth century a portion of the Manor

was occupied as a ladies' boarding school, and there are many evidences on the glass of windows still existing of the names and tastes of pupils who were at the school at that time.

The large Hall, once consecrated as a place of Roman Catholic worship, and now the Manor School for boys, to which allusion has been made earlier, was during this period used as an assembly room for the nobility, gentry and ladies at the races, and also as a common entertaining room for the High Sheriffs at the Assizes.

Alderman Waller's lease of the Manor expired in 1723, and a new lease was granted by the Crown to another York Alderman, Sir Tancred Robinson, of Newby, Baronet, Lord Mayor in 1718 and 1738, his younger brother, Thomas Robinson, created Lord Grantham in 1761, to whom the benefits of the lease afterwards passed, being an ancestor of the present Marquis of Ripon.

Such, in brief, is the History of the King's Manor from the days of Monk Stephen in 1087 to its actual acquisition by the Committee of the Yorkshire School for the Blind in 1835.

In April, 1835, the Rev. Wm. Taylor, F.R.S., who was one of the Vicars Choral of York Minster, and formerly private tutor to Sir Charles Hugh Lowther (blind), was appointed first Superintendent of the Institution, and was desired to report his views as to the system and arrangements necessary for the School, and authorised, if he deemed it desirable, to visit the Institution for the Blind at Berlin, or other places on the Continent, his expenses to the amount of £50 to be charged to the Institution. The Rev. Wm. Taylor will be known to all engaged in the education of the Blind as the inventor of the frame for the purpose of manual arithmetic.

In June of the same year Mr. Anderson, who had been for some years Manager of the Blind Asylum, Edinburgh, and who brought the highest testimonials from the Directors of that Institution as being in all respects qualified for the office, was appointed Master, Mrs. Anderson being appointed Matron.

On the 6th of October, 1835, the first two pupils were admitted in the persons of

Francis Watson, of Beverley, aged 13, and

William Hoole, of Thorpe Willoughby, aged 12.

A schedule of inquiries into the number and condition of the Blind was at this time addressed from the Institution to the Clergy of every Parish in the County who were requested in answering them to procure the co-operation of the Medical Practitioners, together with that of the Overseers of the Poor. No method could have been devised so effectual as this for making the Institution known, as well as for acquiring information respecting the nature and extent of the service which it would be required to render, and the consequence of the inquiry was the admission of eight more pupils in the following month, closely followed by ten others.

In the course of the following year replies were received from 552 parishes, and the returns so obtained when applied to the entire population of the County of York, give the following results:—

Population of Yorkshire in 1831	...	...	1,374,296
Corrected, in round numbers, to 1836	...	...	1,500,000
Blind persons in Yorkshire	...	...	1,339
„ „ not exceeding 50 years of age	...	...	520
„ „ not exceeding 25 years of age	...	...	223
„ „ not exceeding 20 nor under 10	...	...	92
„ „ not exceeding 16 nor under 10	...	...	64
„ „ under 10 years of age	...	...	78

These figures show that there were at that time in Yorkshire alone not fewer than 145 blind persons who, being between ten and twenty-five years old, were of an age capable of receiving essential benefit from instruction.

This return is believed to be the first and only statistical account of the Blind up to this time collected in England.

On the 14th December, 1835, Mr. William Barnby was appointed Music Master to the School, and early in 1836 Dr. Simpson was appointed Honorary Physician and Mr. Richard Hey, Honorary Surgeon.

In January, 1836, a teacher of knitting and needlework was engaged, followed by a teacher of basket-making in March, and later by a blind teacher of mat-making. By this time the work of the School seems to have become fully started. The whole of the pupils were taught arithmetic, reading, history, geography, etc., whilst the boys were taught basket-making, and the girls knitting and sewing. Special attention was given to music, both vocal and instrumental, and one boy was soon able to play the organ on Sundays in some of the York Churches. An extract from the Master's first report shews the wonderful awakening of interests and influences which education and training were bringing into the lives of the young blind :—Mr. Anderson adds that "Some of them when they first came were deplorably ignorant; two at 14 and 15 years of age could not count thirty. Two others of similar age could not put on their own clothes without assistance, but were soon able to do so, much to their delight." It is not when visitors come in upon them that the Blind appear to the greatest advantage; in the presence of strangers, the hilarity, the high flow of spirits, the pleasant and sometimes quaint remark is suppressed; many times of an evening when my pupils are around me asking with eager curiosity for explanations of what I have been reading to them, then it is that I have often felt—would that those who so much interest themselves in their behalf were here, unrecognised that they might see something of the development of those faculties which had so long remained torpid till called into life by the agency of this Institution! It is as extraordinary as it is delightful to see the eagerness of all of them to *possess books*.

The first statement of accounts for the period from the commencement of the Institution to the General Half-yearly Meeting of the Governors, 9th March, 1837, gives proceeds of pupils' work, viz. :—

For Baskets	£34	10	0
For Rope Mats	4	19	9
For Knitted Shawls, Stockings, etc.	9	0	4
	£48	10	1

On 10th March, 1837, the Committee passed a resolution admitting pupils from any part of the United Kingdom, preference on every vacancy being given to children residing in the County of York. In the summer of 1838 the Rev. W. Taylor paid a visit of investigation to several Continental Institutions for the Blind, and was thanked by the Committee for his report thereon.

About this time the Committee, in order to awake public interest in the cause of the Blind, decided to hold public examinations of the pupils from time to time in various towns in the County, and for a period of years these examinations were held at York, Hull, Leeds, Halifax, Huddersfield, Harrogate, Scarborough, Redcar, and at Stockton-on-Tees.

Weekly concerts by the pupils on Thursday afternoons were begun in 1840, and are still held.

In 1842 hair-plaiting, or working in hair, was introduced as an occupation for blind females by Mr. Turner, Perfumer, York, who acted as Honorary Teacher, but the work proved to be too fine for general use; and in 1843 a brass band, consisting of two French horns, two cornopeans, and one ophicleide was started for the pupils at the instance of Mr. Robinson, a local professor of music, who collected the money required for the purchase of the instruments.

In 1845 the Rev. Wm. Taylor, to whom the School owes so much for its organisation, went to Worcester from York where he continued his labours for the Blind, being chiefly interested in forming "The Society for providing cheap literature for the Blind" in the Roman type. He also helped to found in the same City the college for the blind sons of gentlemen.

Dr. Beverley Morris was appointed Superintendent in 1849; a year later, Mr. Agars, the Schoolmaster, was thanked by the Committee for his interesting report on the Schools for the Blind which he had just visited at Nottingham, Birmingham, Bristol, Liverpool, and Manchester; whilst in 1851 the Staff was increased by the appointment of a School-mistress.

An item of interest is seen in the records for 1852: "That a contribution of articles, to the value of £5, manufactured by

the pupils, be presented to the Bazaar intended to be held shortly in Edinburgh on behalf of the Edinburgh School for blind children."

About this time an application was received from the School for the Blind at Liverpool that the Committee would allow one of the pupils to visit that Institution and instruct the pupils in the art of hair-working, and consequently Martha Knowles was allowed to go for a fortnight, the only expense charged being the expense of the journey.

Mr. David Russell was appointed Hon. Treasurer in 1853 in succession to the late Mr. John Prest. In the same year Dr. Morris resigned his office of Superintendent, and was succeeded in 1854 by Mr. William Dawson Littledale, himself blind, and son of Justice Littledale, who had already for some years been a member of the Committee, and resided in a portion of the King's Manor.

The year 1855 sees the appointment for the first time of a paid Medical Officer for the School; the provision of sick accommodation for both male and female pupils; and the death of the Mat Master, "Old Joseph," whose surname was Oldham, who having lost his sight in Egypt in the expedition under Sir Ralph Abercromby, and afterwards received instruction in Liverpool Blind School, had been a valuable and respected teacher in the Institution at York for more than twenty years.

Mr. Littledale resigned his office in 1861 owing to leaving York, and the Committee expressed their deep obligation for his past services, his assiduous and parental care for the pupils, his sympathy with their feelings, his knowledge of their wants, and his aptitude for supplying them, which had contributed much to their cheerful condition and general good conduct.

About this time a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider whether it was desirable and practicable to convert the premises occupied by Mr. Littledale into workshops for the use of blind persons not residing in the School, with the result that the offices on the ground floor were fitted up as work-rooms for blind men in basket-making, mat-making, etc., and the Out-mates Department established in 1862; all workers being paid

at the Standard rate of wages, with a supplement of twopence to every shilling of their earnings.

Mr. Frederick Ebor Brunton was appointed Master of the Institution in 1862, the number of inmates at this time being sixty-seven: three men, thirty-nine boys, two women, twenty-three girls; the receipts for the year for goods made and sold amounting to £139 13s. 2d. In the same year the "Prest" Scholarship was founded by the friends of the late Mr. John Prest, Treasurer of the School from 1840 to 1852, to commemorate his unwearied services to the Charitable Institutions of York: and a little later Mrs. Lloyd, of Stockton Hall, York, founded a similar Scholarship in memory of her late husband, Mr. George Lloyd.

Brush-making was introduced in 1866, and during the first year 12,000 brushes were made and sold.

Mr. Brunton resigned in 1869 to take a similar position at the Institution for the Blind, Liverpool, and Mr. Anthony Buckle, B.A. (London), Assistant-Inspector of Schools, Sheffield, was appointed Superintendent, with Mrs. Buckle as Matron.

The trade receipts for the year were now £1,499 15s. 2d., brush sales having increased from £508 1s. 3d. to £1,044 9s. 3d.

The Institution sustained a grievous loss in the death of Rev. Wm. Vernon Harcourt in 1871, and the Committee placed upon record an expression of their sincere regret and high appreciation of the lengthened and distinguished services which he rendered towards promoting the education and general welfare of the Blind, recognising him as having been virtually the founder of the Institution.

A Free Scholarship was founded in 1872 to commemorate the talents and services of the Rev. Wm. Taylor, F.R.S., the first Superintendent of the School (from 1836 to 1845).

During this year the Outmates' Benefit Club was founded by the Outmates themselves, and managed by them and the Officers of the School, to secure to each blind member a sum of 10s. per week in case of illness. This club, which for forty years proved of the greatest use to its members in times of illness, was disbanded, and its funds, amounting to more than

£300, divided amongst its members shortly after the National Insurance Act came into force.

In 1873 an important and valuable addition to the School buildings was made in the erection of a new wing containing dining-room, large dormitory and laundry. In the same year Mr. Buckle attended the Congress at Vienna of managers and teachers of the Blind in Europe and America.

In 1875 the whole Institution had to mourn the loss by death of Mr. Joseph Munby, who had been Honorary Secretary since the foundation of the School in 1833, one of its chief founders and most devoted supporters, to whom all were indebted for the untiring zeal with which he watched over its interests, and for the loving sympathy which he showed towards the pupils. The Committee considered that services so eminent called for some recognition from the friends of the Institution, and invited subscriptions to a Fund to be called "The Munby Memorial Fund," to be devoted to the encouragement of music in the School—an object which the late Mr. Munby had much at heart.

Mr. Frederick James Munby was appointed his father's successor as Honorary Secretary at the Annual Meeting of the Governors, 17th March, 1876.

During this year the School had to regret, in the death of Mrs. Spencer Markham, another constant and much valued friend, who in her lifetime raised a fund—which is called by her name—to help former pupils of the School in their difficulties and efforts to earn their own livelihood.

In 1881 Mr. Arthur H. Russell succeeded his late father, Mr. David Russell, an old and valued friend of the Institution, and for many years Hon. Treasurer.

It was in this same year that the Very Reverend A. P. Purey-Cust, D.D. (at present Chairman of the Managing Committee) came to York as Dean and joined the Committee of the Institution, whose first act as a member of the Committee was to welcome the blind pupils to York Minster by placing at their disposal one of the galleries so well adapted to their use.

The year 1883 brought the Jubilee of the Wilberforce Memorial which was celebrated by a County Meeting in York and by a conference of Managers and Teachers of Blind Institutions and Friends of the Blind. At the great County Meeting contributions were invited to the Jubilee Commemoration Fund, having for its objects :

1. The extinction of the rent, £115 per annum, payable to Government.

2. The founding of a Department in connection with the School for the purpose of teaching handicrafts to those who had lost their sight after the age of sixteen.

It is satisfactory to note that this appeal met with a liberal response.

The Conference Proceedings form too wide a subject to enter upon in this short article, but the enumeration of the names of a few of the members will remind present-day workers in the cause that "there were giants in those days" :—

Dr. Armitage, F. W. R. Carter, Joseph Hall, Wm. Harris, F. J. Munby, A. Buckle, G. R. Boyle, Dr. Campbell, G. M. Campbell, S. S. Forster, J. H. Hewitt, F. H. Lavanchy-Clarke (Paris), J. H. Meijer (Amsterdam), W. Meston, Rev. H. J. Marston, Colin Macdonald, J. Moldenhawer (Copenhagen), Wm. Martin. S. Neil, H. W. P. Pine, James Townson, Henry J. Wilson.

The full report of this Conference, the first of its kind held in the United Kingdom, is still in print, and may be obtained from the Yorkshire School for the Blind, post free 1/6.

In 1886 H. M. Commissioners of Woods and Forests were paid £3,854 11s. od. for the freehold, and a new building consisting of workshops for men and schoolrooms, was opened by His Grace the Archbishop of York.

It may be added here that the number of inmates of the School elected since its foundation to this date (1886) is 617.

Mr. Wm. Barnby, Music Master, resigned in 1888 after holding the position for fifty years, with the respect and esteem of all for the truly great musical work achieved during his long Mastership, and for his unvarying kindness and personal charm.

The new gymnasium and cloisters were opened in 1894, as was also the Industrial Home for Blind Women, Scarborough, whose objects are:—

1. To provide the comforts and protection of a Home together with industrial employment for a limited number of former female pupils of the School.

2. To give instruction in some handicraft to blind women, who having lost their sight after the age of sixteen, are ineligible for admission into the School at York.

In this year, too, the School was certified by the Education Department, and the first Government grant received the following year.

In 1895, mainly through the exertions of that untiring worker for the Blind, Mr. Alfred Hirst, a small workshop for the Blind with a sale shop was opened at Whitby, where three blind men, formerly pupils of this School, find regular employment. This workshop and the individual workers all receive an annual subsidy from the York Institution.

Mr. James Melrose, J.P., the present Hon. Treasurer, was appointed to this office in 1896.

In 1898 Mr. Louis H. Barnby was appointed Music Master—the position which his late father had so worthily filled for a period of fifty years; and the workshops for the Blind, Middlesborough, established by the Committee of the Wilberforce Memorial, were opened.

In 1899 the Dean of York, as Chairman of the Managing Committee, laid the foundation stone of a new wing comprising a sanatorium with wards for girls and boys, a separate isolation ward, and a residence for the Superintendent. These buildings were completed and ready for use in 1901.

Mr. Buckle died on the Sunday in Ascensiontide, 27th May, 1900. His great work for the Blind is recognised and valued wherever such work is carried on. The Committee recorded their recognition of the fact that the loss sustained by this Institution in the death of its gifted and devoted Superintendent, the late Mr. Anthony Buckle, is indeed irreparable, and further that “In the spirit of William Wilberforce, Mr. Buckle upheld

this great Memorial, and his name also will be cherished in this broad County as that of an exemplary Yorkshireman." What more than this need be said?

Mr. Edward Burnett, B.A., was appointed Superintendent in August, 1900, but after a few months he intimated his desire to resign his post, and the writer of the present article was appointed his successor in July, 1901.

In October, 1908, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the School was celebrated, and it was made the occasion of presenting Mr. F. J. Munby, the Hon. Secretary, with a beautiful album containing six water-colour drawings of different parts of "The King's Manor," with the following letter:—

Yorkshire School for the Blind,
Wilberforce Memorial.

9th October, 1908.

"Dear Mr. Munby,

On behalf of the Pupils, Outmates and Staff of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, with a few friends who have been closely connected with you in your work for the Blind, we take the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the School to ask you to accept this album of water-colour drawings of "The King's Manor"—the home of the School—as a small token of our deep respect for you, and in humble and grateful appreciation of the devoted work of your father, the late Mr. Joseph Munby, and yourself as Honorary Secretaries of this School since the date of its institution in 1833. With every good wish to Mrs. Munby, to the members of your family and yourself, and grateful thanks for all your unvarying kindness.

We remain,

Yours faithfully,"

here follows a list of twenty-two names representing every department of the Institution.

In the album was inscribed a list of all the subscribers, including one who had been a member of the School for seventy

years, others who had been there over fifty years, and also the names of the little blind boys and girls—the youngest pupils, so that the list embraced the whole of the work done in the Wilberforce Memorial, a record of untold gratitude to Mr. Munby for all that he had done for the Blind, and a sheaf of silent and fragrant prayer for the happiness of Mr. Munby and all who bear his name.

During the past few years considerable structural alterations and other work have been carried out to bring the accommodation up to the standard of modern requirements, including installation of new system of heating, electric laundry, increased and better lighting of class-rooms, new drainage, etc.

In 1913 free tram passes were granted by the City Corporation to all blind persons residing in York.

At the present time the Institution comprises the following departments :—

1. The School (certified by the Board of Education, 1894), for the education and training in some handicraft, or in music, of eighty pupils.

2. The Out-mates' Department, for the employment of a number of blind workmen in basket, brush, mattress and mat making, residing at their own homes, and working in the Institution workshops. (Founded 1862).

3. The Out-pupils' Department, for teaching a handicraft to such as have lost their sight after sixteen years of age. (Founded 1883).

4. Mrs. Markham's Fund for the purpose of aiding former pupils of the School to establish themselves in positions of independent industry. (Founded 1866).

5. The Munby Memorial Fund for the encouragement of the study of music amongst the pupils. (Founded 1875).

6. Industrial home for blind women, Scarborough. (Opened 1894).

Up to the age of sixteen years pupils remain in the Elementary School, the mornings being devoted to literary work, and the afternoons to manual training. Such pupils as

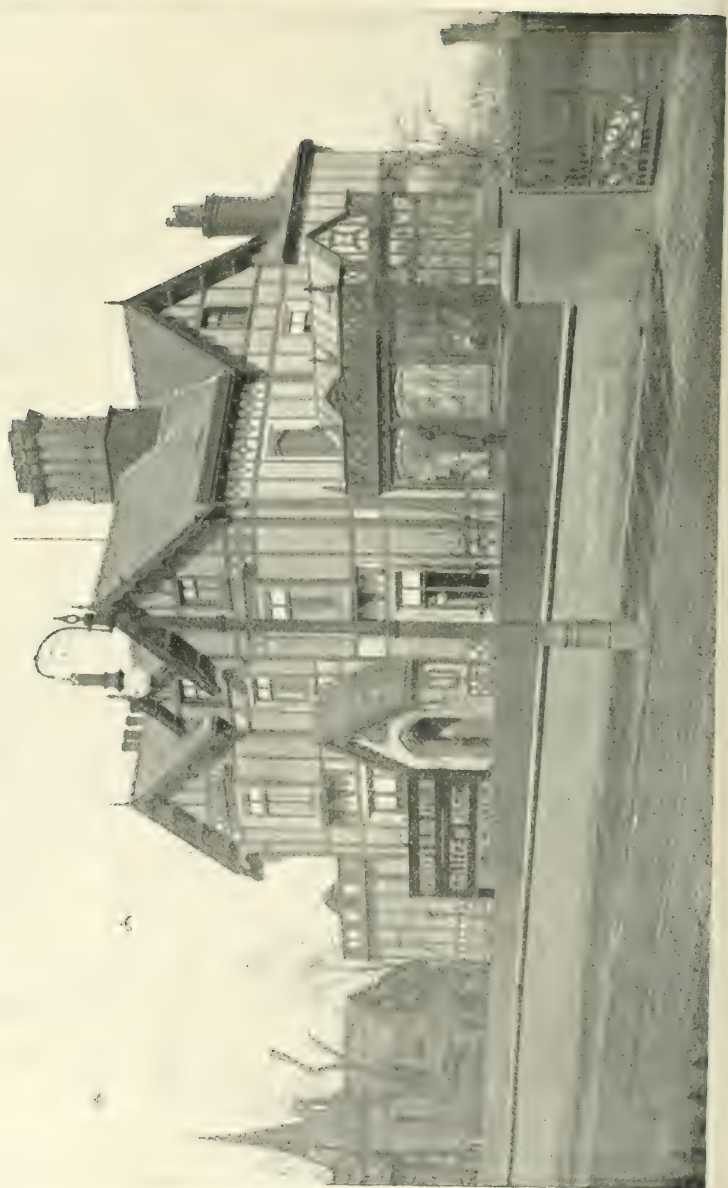
give promise of becoming proficient in manual or other work by which a livelihood may be obtained are retained by arrangement with the various Local Education Authorities, after the age of sixteen to continue and complete their technical training. These technical pupils continue their mental and physical training by attending classes in the Evening School.

The hours of work in the Out-mates' Departments (basket, brush, mattress and mat-making) are from 8 to 1 and 2 to 6—Saturdays 8 to 1.

The work is chiefly piece-work at the District Trades Union list rate. A compensation grant of one penny per hour is given to all piece workers, making a total grant of 4s. 2d. per week for all who are in attendance a full working week of fifty hours. Sick pay is given—in addition to the amount received under the National Insurance Act—on production of a medical certificate—5s. a week to single men, 7s. 6d. a week to married men. Cases of men over seventy years of age are decided separately, and all sick pay dates from the first day of illness. In the Out-pupils' Department thirty blind men have been trained, of whom twelve are at present employed in the Institution workshops and are earning their own living. The number of blind adult workers employed by the Institution is forty-seven. There are also ten inmates at present in the Industrial Home for Blind Women, Scarborough.

This account of the Yorkshire School for the Blind (the Wilberforce Memorial), short and very imperfect as it is felt to be, shews a record of continuous progress, due to good foundations well and truly laid by those devoted workers associated with its first beginnings, built upon by the anxious and loving care of many good friends of the Blind; strengthened and developed during a long period of years by the wise counsel and vigorous efforts of a remarkable man; and above all guided, protected and helped throughout by the unique and unbroken service of one family.

May all those who follow derive inspiration from their association with this great Memorial.



THE HUNTERMAN'S BLIND ASYLUM.



THE GREAT HALL, MANCHESTER.

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 69.

JANUARY 20TH, 1915.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. Last year, so memorable in many ways, has seen the loss of three personages of light and leading in the world of the Blind. Only a few short months have elapsed since we mourned the departure from among us of Sir Francis Campbell, for forty years Principal of the Royal Normal College, at Upper Norwood, a biographical notice of whom appeared in our last number, and since then, on November 12th, Miss Adelaide Moon, a well known and deeply valued friend, has entered into her well-earned rest at the age of 69.

As most of our readers are aware, Miss Moon was the daughter of Dr. William Moon, the inventor of The Moon type, which has proved such a blessing to those who go blind in middle or advanced life, when the finger-tips have, as a general rule, lost the sensitiveness required to master the Braille type.

Miss Moon carried on the work, initiated by her father, at 104, Queen's Road, Brighton, and a notice of her splendid activities appeared in No. 36 of *The Blind*, October, 1906. Everyone who had the privilege of her friendship must have been struck by her wonderful capacity for business, and the thoroughness and determination with which she carried out ideas that she conceived to be for the good of the Blind. She personally superintended the whole of the work carried on at

Queen's Road, Brighton, for embossing and circulating books in Moon type, as well as the Brighton Blind Relief Society, which befriended so many of the blind poor there. She was also most energetic and successful in establishing The Moon Pension Society for the needy Blind of the county. To mental ability of a marked type she joined a singleness and sincerity of character that made her the forceful personality she was, and gave her the persistence and perseverance in the face of many difficulties that, in nine cases out of ten, resulted in their being overcome. The loss of her only brother, Dr. R. C. Moon, Secretary to the Home Teaching Society, Philadelphia, U.S.A., which occurred in the preceding spring, was a heavy blow to his sister, and must, we fear, have hastened the fatal termination of her impending illness. The funeral took place on Wednesday, 18th November, at the Extra-Mural Cemetery, Brighton, being preceded by a short service at the house, conducted by the Rev. Hugh Shearer. Amongst those who attended were Mr. H. J. Wilson, representing Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and also the Metropolitan Union of Societies for the Blind; Mr. Guy Campbell, Principal of the Royal Normal College; Mr. H. Stainsby, representing the National Institute for the Blind; Miss Gilbert, the London Home Teaching Society, and Mr. G. Mowatt, the National Lending Library for the Blind. It was most touching to see the number of blind persons who attended the ceremony at the grave-side, bearing witness to the gratitude and veneration felt for her who was gone, who in life had been their never failing helper and true friend.

“ And doubtless unto her is given

A life that bears immortal fruit,

In such great offices as suit

The full-grown energies of heaven.”

We also, alas! have to deplore the loss of Mr. F. J. Munby, that veteran and indefatigable worker for the Blind, who amongst all the activities of a successful life as a lawyer, found time to carry on the work so ably begun by his father, as Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire School for the Blind. The following obituary notice has kindly been written at our request by Mr. Norwood,

who as Principal of the School had many opportunities of observing Mr. Munby's thorough and conscientious work and constant and unfailing kindness in all that concerned the School:—

All engaged in work for the Blind will deeply regret the great loss the cause has sustained in the death of Mr. F. J. Munby, of York. They will recognize the value of his life-long patient energy in promoting all that concerned their welfare, not only in connection with the Yorkshire School for the Blind (the Wilberforce Memorial), but also in the larger national field of work, and will also remember him with respect and affection for his singleness of purpose, his old world courtesy and charm of manner, and the unvarying consideration which he shewed to all with whom he came into contact.

Mr. Munby may be said to have inherited his loving interest in the Blind, for his father, the late Mr. Joseph Munby, one of the founders of the Wilberforce Memorial, was elected its first Hon. Secretary in 1833, an office which he held up to his death in 1875, and in which he was directly succeeded by Mr. F. J. Munby, who continued the work until his own death in December 1914, thus constituting a unique record of eighty-one years' continuous service by father and son.

Mr. Munby was born on April 5th, 1837, and was educated at St. Peter's School, York, and at Cheltenham College. In 1855 he was articled to his father, a prominent solicitor in York, with whom he subsequently entered into partnership, and to whose various legal appointments he succeeded, including those of Clerk to the Magistrates of the City of York, the Magistrates of the Eastern Anisty Division of the West Riding, and to the Visiting Justices of York Castle, as well as that of Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire School for the Blind.

Even with all this professional and philanthropic work Mr. Munby found time and energy to do much more. He was keenly and actively interested in all Diocesan matters, and was an ardent and ceaseless worker in the cause of education, particularly in the maintenance of Church Schools, not however merely as educational establishments, but as centres of definite religious instruction in which he was a firm and unflinching believer.

In his general work for the Blind Mr. Munby took part in many Conferences both at home and abroad, and was personally acquainted with the leading workers for the Blind in foreign countries. He was also Chairman of the North of England Union of Agencies for the Blind, a position which he had filled since the formation of the Union in 1906. In 1883 he received the Diploma and Medal of Merit from the International Society for the amelioration of the condition of the Blind, and in 1913 he had the honour of Fellowship of the College of Teachers of the Blind conferred upon him in recognition of his long and distinguished service on their behalf.

In Mr. Munby every person in affliction or distress had a friend, and this was especially true in the case of the Blind, towards whom his interest, sympathy, and desire to help always so readily turned. To the Wilberforce Memorial Institution at York he was in very truth all in all. He was a father and friend to all. In the case of the pupils he knew every one of them individually, and delighted to note their gradual growth and development, and to discuss their progress and prospects. No trouble was too much, no sacrifice of time, efforts, or personal comfort was too great in his work for them. Even in his busiest hours he would always find time for his Blind School work, and would frequently remark that such work was recreation and refreshment to him.

Speaking at a meeting held at the School in 1909 Mr. Munby said : " I do not forget I am speaking in the room in which our dear friend, Anthony Buckle, passed away. I speak in a building which is something more than of historic interest ; and, perhaps, my greatest joy, outside my family, has been to have a share not only in commemorating, but, as I remember once putting it, in perpetuating the life of William Wilberforce. I know no greater ambition any man can have than to be permitted to share in that great work. If God spares me, nothing will rejoice me more than to continue in this work for the Blind." His prayer was granted, for he was busily engaged at the School two days before his death, and even on the day before, he wrote a letter sending his love to all at the School,

bidding them not to be anxious about him, and saying that he hoped to see them again in a day or two. Alas! however, this was not to be, for early on the following morning, Saturday, 12th December, Mr. Munby died quite suddenly from heart failure, and by his death the Blind and all who work with and for them have lost one of their oldest, best, most constant and most valued friends.

2. Miss Sadgrove, Secretary of the North of England Union of Societies for the Blind, has passed through a long period of nursing, anxiety and sorrow, and we tender her our sincere sympathy. Her father, the Rev. F. E. Sadgrove, who was rector of Winston for twenty-five years, has been very ill and unable to walk for several months. At the end of October a specialist was called in, and immediate amputation of the foot and part of the leg was found necessary. Mr. Sadgrove, although in his seventy-third year, bore the great shock wonderfully well, and is progressing favourably. His wife, who had been seriously ill, and devotedly nursed by Miss Sadgrove for over a year, died the day after the operation on her husband, who was overwhelmed with sorrow at his great loss. These two heavy blows occurring in the short space of two days must have been a very severe trial to Miss Sadgrove, after all the anxious time she had passed through. We earnestly hope that her father's health may soon be sufficiently recovered to allow Miss Sadgrove to continue her excellent work of organisation in the Northern Counties. On going to press, we are pleased to hear that he is doing well, and has been able to go away for change of air.

3. The Rev. G. F. Whittleton, formerly of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, and of Wadham College, Oxford, is leaving Plumstead after six-and-a-half years ministry in that parish. His Vicar has accepted the living of Christ Church, Croydon, and has asked Mr. Whittleton to accompany him as his Senior Curate. There will be a large staff, and Mr. Whittleton is to have charge of St. Jude's, Thornton Heath. He has been asked by the Bishop to remain at Plumstead as Curate-in-

Charge during the interregnum, and therefore will not take up his new post until next month.

4. Two former students at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester were ordained Deacons on December 20th, by the Bishop of Chichester, in the Parish Church of St. Peter, Eastbourne, viz., Mr. Herbert E. C. Lewis, M.A., F.R.C.O., St. John's College and Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, to St. Mary Magdalen, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, and Mr. Christian F. Waudby, B.A., Queen's College, Oxford, to the Parish Church at Milland. Mr. Lewis took 2nd Class Honours in Modern History, and Mr. Waudby 2nd Class Honours in English Literature.

5. Mr. William A. Roberts, who is totally blind, and has been educated at the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind since January 1900, has been appointed organist at Bicester Parish Church, and began his duties on the 3rd inst. He intends to sit for the A.R.C.O. diploma this month. He was invited to the Vicarage last month for a week-end, when he conducted the Choir practice and performed the duties of organist at the three services on the Sunday with such complete satisfaction that the Vicar immediately appointed him

6. Mr. F. Riley, a Gardner scholar at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, has been successful in passing the Senior Cambridge Local Examination, gaining the distinctive mark in "spoken" French, and the mark "good" in other subjects.

7. We tender our sincere and hearty congratulations to Miss E. R. Scott on obtaining the first gold medal offered by the College of Teachers of the Blind for an essay on a subject specially selected by the Committee. The essay, which is entitled "The History of the Education of the Blind prior to 1830," will be printed in due course, as a booklet, and copies will be obtainable at a low price (not yet fixed) from the Hon

Registrar of the College, 206, Great Portland Street, W. Miss Scott is well known to our readers as the editor of that most interesting newspaper "The Weekly Summary." The medal will be presented to her at the annual meeting of the College on March 20th. The subject for the next essay is "The History of the Education of the Blind from 1830 to 1892," and essays should be sent to the Hon. Registrar not later than 1st of July next. The regulations as to the competition were given in our last January number, pages 150 and 151.

8. Readers of our last number will remember a reference to an effort made by Miss Harris Browne to organize the sale of work done by blind women and girls.

So far the scheme has met with much success. In the four months, September to December, Miss Harris Browne has sold £450 worth of knitted things, principally for the Army and Navy.

It is gratifying to note that through her efforts a growing reputation for thorough workmanship and finish has been established for the Blind, which should prove to be of real advantage to them. And in this connection, it is pleasant to hear that many of the girls have shown themselves anxious to improve their work and keep it up to the required standard.

9. The next examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind will be held at the Yorkshire School for the Blind, by kind permission of the Committee, on May 18th, 19th, and 20th. Candidates can obtain full information from, and should apply at an early date to, the Hon. Registrar, Mr. Henry Stainsby, 206, Great Portland Street, London, W.

10. Mr. Joseph Hall, Grosvenor House, Swansea, has requested us to enquire whether any of our readers has books in Alston type, that could be lent to a blind man in Herefordshire who learnt this type forty years ago and can read no other. Will any reader who has such books kindly communicate direct with Mr. Hall.

11. The Committee of the Somerstown Blind Aid Society have decided to change the name to "The Hepburn Starey Blind Aid Society." It is already generally known as "Mrs. Starey's Class," as she has devoted for many years much loving and personal care to the 400 blind members of the Society. It was well, therefore, to perpetuate her name by changing the title.

12. If this should meet the eye of the person to whom the editor lent many months ago vols. i. and ii. of Taswell-Langmead's English Constitutional History in Braille, he will be very grateful if they could be returned to him, as, unfortunately, he has mislaid the note referring to the loan, and the volumes are now required.

13. The annual meeting of the Council of the College of Teachers of the Blind will take place on Saturday, March 20th, at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, S.W. Mrs. Wilton Phipps, Chairman of the London County Council Special Schools Committee, has kindly consented to preside on that occasion.

14. Saturday, December 12th, was a very busy day for some of us. At 10 a.m., at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, there was a meeting of the Fellows of the College of Teachers of the Blind. Thirteen Fellows in all have been appointed, and their names are the Rev. Thomas Burns, D.D., the late Sir F. J. Campbell, Lady Campbell, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, J.P., W. H. Illingworth, Arthur L. Lowe, LL.B., the late F. J. Munby, H. W. P. Pine, A. W. G. Ranger, D.C.L., H. Stainsby, H. M. Taylor, F.R.S., J. C. Warren, and H. J. Wilson.

At 11.30 a.m. there was a meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind, when several important questions were discussed, amongst them being (a) the approval of the syllabus for this year's examination; (b) the award of the College gold medal, kindly presented last year by Mr. W.

H. Illingworth, F.C.T.B., for the best essay on the "History of the Education of the Blind prior to 1830." The medal was awarded to Miss E. R. Scott, Shere, Surrey; (c) the election of Mr. G. M. Campbell as a member on the Committee in the room of Miss L. Douglas-Hamilton, whose resignation was accepted with much regret.

At 2 p.m. the last meeting of the Committee of the Conference (1914) of the Blind took place, when the Chairmen of the various Sub-Committees made their respective reports, and a bound proof of the official report with the financial statement was presented.

At 3 p.m. the first meeting of the Committee appointed to organize the next Conference was held, when there were present Miss Austin, Miss Garaway, Miss B. Taylor, the Rev. C. E. Bolam, Messrs. G. M. Campbell, W. H. Dixon, S. Johnson, C. A. Pearson, M. Priestley, H. Stainsby, H. C. Warrilow, and H. J. Wilson.

Letters regretting their inability to attend were received from Messrs. A. B. Norwood, H. W. P. Pine, and A. Siddall.

On the motion of Mr. G. M. Campbell, Mr. H. J. Wilson was elected Chairman, and on the motion of Mr. Pearson, Mr. H. Stainsby was elected Hon. Secretary *pro. tem.*

It was decided to hold the next Conference in 1917, provided that circumstances will allow of this arrangement, but the question of settling the venue was postponed, in order that enquiries might be made in regard to the place at which the next Conference will be held, on the Continent or elsewhere.

The National Committee for the Employment of the Blind were re-elected *en bloc*, and the names of Messrs. H. Mullins, C. A. Pearson, and A. Siddall were added.

Mr. B. Purse was co-opted on the Conference Committee. The consideration of Mr. Stone's proposal, as sketched out by him at the Conference held last June, was referred to a small Sub-Committee to make a report thereon.

15. The Examination of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships tenable at the Royal Normal College, will henceforth be

held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending candidates should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

16. "It will be remembered that many beautiful specimens of Continental and British Blind work were shown at the International Exhibition of the Arts and Industries of the Blind in June. Some were sold, but a good deal was left, and it was then arranged with the Exhibitors that a Sale should be held in the Autumn to dispose of what remained over. The carriage was so expensive that it was thought wise to retain the goods, sell them, and send the proceeds to the poor Blind persons who had made them.

Then came this terrible War, and at first we feared the idea of a Sale must be abandoned; but on looking closely into the matter we found that the great majority of the things were made by the Blind of Russia and France—our Allies—and it seemed doubly incumbent on us to dispose of them and send the money to those poor Blind on whom the horrors of War are now falling."

The above was the explanation of the *raison d'être* of the Sale that was held at St. Peter's Schools, Lower Belgrave Street, S.W., on Saturday, 5th December, 1914. It is a great pleasure to be able to add that the Sale was in every way a success, the sum required being realized, and a substantial amount thus secured to send to the Blind among our Allies, who, like our own Blind, must be feeling the cruel pinch of War.

There were also several articles made by the Blind of India, the great country to which we owe so much generous and ready help in our necessity, and these articles sold quickly and well. The Sale was opened at 3.30 p.m. by Lady Trotter, after a few words of explanation by Mr. Stuart Johnson, who, with Mrs. Goodhart, made practically the whole of the arrangements for this most successful function, and they are to be heartily congratulated.

17. The official report of the Conference held last June will probably be ready for distribution before these lines appear. Copies, price 2/6 each, postage 5d., can be obtained from Mr. Henry Stainsby, 206, Great Portland Street, W. The book is much larger than was anticipated, running into 577 pages, and is exceedingly well printed and bound.

18. The following books in Braille have recently been added to the Free Public Library at Oxford, viz., The Book of Isaiah (revised version), Cæsar's Gallic War, Book iv., Sophocles' Ajax (edited by L. Campbell), Scientific Study of the Old Testament, Hassall's Balance of Power, and Wade's Old Testament History.

19. The Committee of the Barclay Home for Blind and Partially Blind Girls, Brighton, have just completed a further extension, consisting of a room 43 by 25 feet, with a long wide balcony attached. This room will be used for hand and machine knitting, and as recreation room for the adults. In fine weather the hand knitters will be able to work on the balcony. The old knitting room will be used as a workshop for girls living in Brighton, who have been educated at the Home. Only one girl has been given employment in the workshop as yet, but the Committee anticipate extending this department largely. A new sanitary block and additional entrance to the Home are improvements that have also been completed. The total expenditure was about £1,000, of which £950 has been raised during the year.

20. A most interesting discussion on that most vexed question, the exact definition of blindness, took place on December 2nd by the members of the ophthalmological section of the Royal Society of Medicine, and was reported in *The Lancet* of December 12th. The debate was opened by Mr. H. B. Grimsdale, a member of the Departmental Committee appointed last year to consider the condition of the Blind, who referred to "the importance of defining, if possible, the con-

dition of blindness that had long exercised the minds of those concerned in the teaching and maintenance of the Blind." The definition of total blindness, as that of no perception of light, was apparently agreed to unanimously, but when the definition of partially or practically blind was considered there seemed great difficulty in arriving at an unanimous decision. It is interesting to note in connection with the last census returns when only the "totally" blind were to be scheduled, that Dr. Grimsdale states that "the ratio of the totally blind to the economically blind was about one to nine." Mr. W. C. Rockliffe, Mr. N. Bishop Harman, Mr. F. Richardson Cross, and others joined in the discussion.

21. A short history of fifty years work of the Blind Institution at Hull has been compiled by Dr. Rockliffe and is very interesting, and has many excellent portraits and illustrations. It was written and printed with the object of not only placing before the public the work done and progress made during this period, but with the hope of arousing sufficient public interest to raise a "Jubilee Fund" of £7,000 to assist the needy Blind and to augment wages. But, alas! in consequence of the war, the booklets have not yet been issued, as it was felt that an appeal at this time could not possibly be fully successful.

22. At our special request, Mr. Walter G. Holmes, the very able President and Manager of the Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind, has written the following interesting note about the Magazine. It was a great pleasure and privilege to many of us to make Mr. Holmes's acquaintance at the Conference last year:—

"The Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind was founded in 1907 by Mrs. William Ziegler of New York City. It is published monthly, and goes free each month to every blind person in the United States and Canada, who can read. In addition, it goes free to all Libraries and Institutions for the Blind in the English speaking world. Mrs. Ziegler spends more than \$20,000 a year on this work, and finances it wholly herself.

The Magazine is generally about sixty-seven pages, and contains matter similar to the current ink print Magazines. There is generally a story of fiction; a scientific article, and a department of current events occupies about one-fourth of the space of the Magazine; there is a fancy work department with patterns for crocheting, etc., for the ladies, and a game and puzzle department. As a rule, the Magazine does not devote much space to blindness, for as one of the readers said when the Magazine was first started, "We know enough about that by experience." Of course, in current events any special news of interest about the Blind is told there.

The one exception to this rule is a department headed "Experiences and Suggestions for Success." In this there are letters from the Blind themselves or articles about blind people who have been successful in various lines of work, with suggestions for new lines which the Blind might take up. This is one of the most popular features of the Magazine, and there are doubtless several hundred people now engaged in lucrative work in the United States who have found their work through suggestions received through this department.

Unfortunately in America there are, in addition to the Moon type, two types in general use, New York Point and American Braille, and in order to reach all of the readers, as there are many who do not read but one of these types, the Magazine is printed in both types, the reader having the edition of the type he prefers. All of the work of preparing the Magazine is done at the commodious offices of the company at 250 West 54th Street, New York City. The printing plant of the offices occupies a space of about 40,000 square feet, on the 7th floor of one of New York's model buildings.

After one month's Magazine is out of the way and before printing on the next is begun, entertainments for the Blind are frequently given. There is space for between four and five hundred camp chairs, and musicals and other entertainments are given.

The work of assembling the sheets of the Magazine is done entirely by twelve blind girls, three of whom are deaf and blind.

The printed pages of the Magazine are placed upon a long table, page one in the first pile, page two in the next, etc., and these girls have to pass 8,000 times down the length of that long table gathering one sheet from each Magazine, and when they reach the end of the line a complete Magazine is assembled. These girls get \$1.25 a day (about five shillings) for their work, and the manager says they do it just as well and just as rapidly, in fact he thinks more so, than seeing girls would do, for they have less distractions and do not stop their work to look at every little trivial happening that takes place in the room. The blind girls call it their week of happiness when they come to the office each month to assemble the Magazine. There is a piano there with which they enjoy themselves, playing and singing at their lunch and leisure hours.

One of the deaf-blind girls mentioned above, Miss Katherine McGirr, works at the Ziegler office the entire month, reading proofs during the remaining three weeks of the month. She has not seen a ray of light nor heard a sound for twenty-seven years. She comes of a family with little or no education; but she has been well educated so that she is proficient as a proof reader, and she is the main support of her family. This girl possesses the peculiar faculty of being able to distinguish, from a dozen or more pieces of music which she has learned, anyone of these pieces simply by placing her hands on the piano and feeling the vibration. When she meets a person once she rarely ever forgets the touch of that hand.

The Ziegler Magazine prints its paper wet; and to wet, print, dry and assemble over 400,000 pages each month, means quite an undertaking. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Ziegler has endowed this Magazine so that it will be perpetual, and will not need any funds from the outside world."

23. In these days when our thoughts are much centred in Belgium, it may be of interest to our readers to learn that the earliest blind undergraduate of whom any record can be found is Nicassius Devourde, a native of Malines, who studied at Louvain University, and on attaining his Doctor's degree at the

end of the 15th Century was accorded by the Pope a licence to Preach.

24. The amount raised by Lady Campbell for the Alfred Hirst Memorial Fund has been invested in £ 469 5s. 10d. India 3% Stock by the trustees of the Whitby Trust for the Blind. The income of the Trust from previous investments amounted to £26 2s. 4d., and in addition to this, Lord and Lady Normanby subscribe annually £15 15s. The total income, therefore, including the interest on the Hirst Fund, amounts to over £55 a year.

THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

Metropolitan Union. Meetings of the Executive Committee have been held on October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th, and January 9th, and much important work has been done, although in some directions it has naturally been impeded by the war.

North West Union. At a meeting held last November the Rev. Canon Binney, of Northwich, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Union in the room of the late Archdeacon of Chester, and Mrs. Macfie, Rock Mount, Chester, was appointed Hon. Treasurer. The Union made a grant of £6 for the purchase of wool which was given to the blind workers to be knitted into various articles, and these were sent, as a present, to the sailors and soldiers at the front.

Western Counties Union. A meeting of the Committee was held at the Workshops for the Blind, Bristol, on October 30th, Mr. F. Richardson Cross in the Chair. Mrs. Vere Stead, the Organizing Secretary, gave a report of her work, for which she was heartily thanked. A discussion took place on the advisability of offering increased facilities to the Blind for obtaining literature. A plan was suggested whereby all the Blind living in the area of the Union by arrangement with the

Libraries within that area would be able to borrow books from all those Libraries.

A report of the business transacted at the meeting of the Union of Unions was given, and also of the proceedings of the International Conference. Special attention was called to the number of articles procured by the Organizing Secretary for the Exhibition, as by this means many blind persons were brought into touch with her.

The Committee expressed a strong opinion as to the importance of private sales of work, such as those held at Weston-super-mare and Torquay.

Considerable success in the difficult matter of securing the attendance at school of blind children was recorded, several having been rescued from neglect by the efforts of the Organizing Secretary.

In common probably with all the other Unions, unwelcome difficulties on account of the war have presented themselves. Work amongst the Blind, especially in the direction of new organization, has been impeded; and also the heavy claims of the war have interfered with subscriptions.

Eastern Counties Union. A large and interesting meeting was held on January 5th at Bury St. Edmunds, by the West Suffolk Blind Aid Association, a branch of this Union. Mrs. Bygott, the Hon. Secretary, explained the objects of the branch, and referred to the registration of the Blind in West Suffolk. The Exhibition and Sale of Work done by the Blind was opened by the Marchioness of Bristol.

HENSHAW'S BLIND ASYLUM, OLD TRAFFORD, MANCHESTER.

By Mr. W. Henry Illingworth, F.C.T.B., Superintendent.

Visitors to Manchester, who desire to inspect the world-famous Ship Canal, will probably board a tramcar bearing the legend "Trafford Bridge for Docks." After travelling for about

two miles along Chester Road, a very dull and uninteresting thoroughfare, the end of the "Penny Stage" is reached at "Old Trafford Bar." The *Bar* is no more, but the Old Toll House still stands, though shorn of its ancient dignity and quite recently transformed into a grocer's shop.

Continuing the journey, the attention of every stranger is very shortly arrested by a magnificent pile of buildings on his left, whose striking façade in the Elizabethan style of architecture, carried out in Summit Stone, bears unmistakable evidence of Manchester and Salford smoke on its blackened exterior.

Although to the casual observer, the structure looks like one huge Institution, it is in reality two—quite separate and distinct; Henshaw's Blind Asylum on the Manchester side and the Royal Schools for the Deaf and Dumb on the Stretford side with St. Thomas' Church, the Chapel of the two Institutions in the centre. The whole of the front, including a broad carriage drive, a beautiful lawn and shrubberies, being enclosed by a low stone wall surmounted by a substantial palisade, having a fine gateway at each end supported by four massive castellated columns.

Though the whole block of buildings is locally usually referred to as "Henshaw's," it may be said at once that there is no connection whatever between Henshaw's Charity and the Royal Schools for the Deaf and Dumb, other than that constituted by "bricks and mortar" and a very friendly intercourse between the two Institutions.

Notwithstanding the Institution for the Blind was not opened till the year 1839, the Charity was *founded* nearly thirty years earlier; but as is hereafter set forth, the benefits intended by Thomas Henshaw for the Blind were delayed in the first instance by a Law Suit in the Court of Chancery, and later, by the tardy response of the citizens of Manchester to the call for the provision of necessary buildings.

THOMAS HENSHAW,

a merchant of Oldham, the founder of the Institution, was born in the year 1731, and died in 1810, leaving the sum of £20,000

for the purpose of providing for the care and maintenance of the indigent blind of the district. He left a similar amount for a Blue Coat School to be established in Oldham, or Manchester, at the discretion of his trustees.

The Will, being contested by relatives, fell into the Court of Chancery, and not until the expiration of twenty years did the Court issue its verdict, which was, to confirm the terms of the Will as laid down by the testator. By this time the original sum bequeathed had more than doubled itself, so that over £46,000 fell to each of the charities to be established.

The first record, extant, of any action being taken in regard to utilizing the legacy for the benefit of the Blind, is found in an old Minute Book, and runs as follows:—

“Boroughreeve’s Room,
Town Hall, Manchester.

October 3rd, 1833.

“At a meeting of Gentlemen of this Town and neighbourhood convened by the Boroughreeve and Constables for the purpose of entering into a subscription towards accomplishing the erection of a Blind Asylum at Manchester (for the endowment of which the late Mr. Henshaw bequeathed a Sum of Money) and of taking such steps for canvassing the neighbourhood with a view of raising still further subscriptions as might then be thought necessary.”

A communication was read at this meeting from “the Trustees of the late Mr. Thomas Henshaw, respecting the application of the Funds left by him for the support of a Blind Asylum in Manchester,” and this was ordered to be inscribed in the Minutes.

This communication, after referring to Mr. Henshaw’s intention that a Blue Coat School should be established at Oldham, and a Blind Asylum at Manchester goes on to say, “But he directed that the said monies should not be applied in the purchase of lands, or the erection of buildings, it being his expectation, that other persons would, at their expense, purchase lands and buildings for those purposes.”

The communication then proceeds to state that although

the terms of the Will had been for two or three years continuously advertised in the local papers, the Trustees were disappointed to have had no response concerning the erection of a Blind Asylum, although the people of Oldham had not only risen to the occasion, but had by that time, July, 1833, actually got their buildings for the Blue Coat School completed—and urges the Boroughreeve and Constables to make some effort to enable the Trustees to carry Mr. Henshaw's Will into effect.

So it came about that a Special Committee was appointed to “confer with the Trustees of the late Mr. Henshaw's Charity, regarding the erection of a suitable building for a Blind Asylum.”

The Minutes of this meeting, which by the way are written in a hand almost equal to copperplate, are signed by the Chairman, Benjamin Bradley, Boroughreeve.

At the next meeting in the Boroughreeve's room it is announced that the sum of over £1,000 had been already subscribed for the Building Fund, and a Mr. Richard Tattershall, Architect, offered his services gratis on condition that he be entered as a donor of a sum equivalent to his rightful professional charges as Architect.

In January, 1834, a scheme for a Committee of Management was promulgated, and rules and regulations formulated. It was also suggested that Incorporation by Act of Parliament should be sought, but this was evidently never carried into effect.

A suggestion appears to have been made about this time that a “school of education” should be combined with the Asylum, but at the meeting of the Committee of Management held on March 3rd, 1834, the following minute was recorded:—

“The abundant facilities which the Liverpool Institution, at so short a distance, possesses for the admission of all who may wish for instruction in any of the trades taught within its walls, the great expense which must be incurred in the appointment of masters for the purpose of teaching these trades and the positive loss to the Institution, have induced the Committee to

consider that any arrangements for this purpose would be, at present, only burdensome and unnecessary." After the Committee had arrived at this conclusion "they turned their attention to the basis of a plan on which an Asylum for the Poor and Infirm Blind might be efficiently conducted," and at a meeting in September of the same year a deputation from the Manchester Deaf and Dumb School asked the Committee to consider the question as to the advisability of uniting the Blind Asylum with new Deaf and Dumb Schools in one building,

Three months later the Subscription's Committee decided to adopt this plan, and a plot of land adjoining the Botanical Gardens, Old Trafford, was selected as the site for the building of the two Institutions. The fact that one Chapel would serve both Institutions seems to have been the chief argument in favour of the arrangement.

The position of the front of the proposed buildings was agreed upon, and it was decided that the plot of land before it, next the turnpike road, should be left open and undivided by any fence.

By January, 1835, the Asylum Committee had advanced so far as to submit a draft of rules and regulations for the conduct of the Asylum, the first of which is important in view of possible developments at the present day; it runs as follows:—"That this Charity be distinguished by the name of Henshaw's Blind Asylum" its objects being to maintain and afford such instruction to the indigent blind of both sexes, capable of employment, as will enable them to provide, either wholly or in part, for their own subsistence, and to afford an Asylum to the impotent and aged Blind." There is no record as to how the change of policy on the part of the Committee, with regard to *instruction*, in the scope of the Asylum's work, was brought about. It is interesting to note, however, "that no children of tender years, that is to say under the age of ten, should be admitted, as the expense involved in looking after them would be prohibitive, and hinder the beneficent work of the Asylum."

All subscribers of two guineas a year and upwards were

made members of the Board of Governors of the Asylum, and so it remains to this day.

Looking out from the main entrance of the Blind Asylum on a clear day the hills beyond Salford may yet be seen in the distance, but between, and obstructing the view, no less than sixty tall chimneys may be counted—Cottonopolis factories—whilst the foreground is occupied by the Ship Canal with its never ceasing traffic, and often an Ocean Liner. Truly a very different outlook from that which met the glad gaze of the Architect when he completed his work seventy-five years ago. This was then an attractive rural district, and the outlook, over Trafford Park—one of the most beautiful parks in England with its herds of deer browsing under stately oaks. Now, Trafford Park is an immense colony of mills, motor factories, breweries, electrical works, docks, warehouses, elevators and bridges, all comprising a huge hive of industry, dependent for its very life, on that wonderful triumph of engineering skill, the Manchester Ship Canal.

The Architect for the Asylum was Mr. Richard Lane, and the members of the Board of Management appointed to act as Buildings Committee were:—Rev. O. Sergeant, Rev. Richard Parkinson, Mr. Thomas Fleming, Mr. Samuel Walker, Mr. Joseph Adshead, Mr. Edmund Buckley, Mr. Thomas Potter, Dr. Hulme, and Dr. Lyon. October 16th, 1835.

Before proceeding with the work, a deputation from this Committee visited the Liverpool and Edinburgh Blind Institutions for the purpose of obtaining information as to probable requirements. This deputation on its return noted, among other things, that "The Committee of the Liverpool School consider it quite unnecessary to instruct the pupils in reading, etc., their principal object being to enable them to do something for themselves when they leave the Institution," and that "It is the opinion of Mr. Lucy, the Superintendent, that there will not be found objects for the different Asylums, the number of Blind persons having decreased so considerably of late years. He is also of opinion that the Manchester Asylum would be essentially

useful as an Asylum entirely for the reception of indigent blind." The Building Fund had now reached the sum of £9,000.

On 23rd March, 1836, the first stone was laid by Mr. William Grant (who was, by the way, one of Dickens's "Cheeryble Brothers"). A plate bearing the following inscription was deposited within the stone :—

"This stone, the first of a building to comprise an Asylum for the Blind, endowed by the late Thomas Henshaw, Esq, A school for the Deaf and Dumb, and a Chapel for the joint benefit of both Institutions was laid on Wednesday, the 23rd day of March, 1836, by Mr. William Grant, the cost of the building being defrayed by private benefactions.

RICHARD LANE, Architect.

DAVID BELLHOUSE, Builder."

Mr. Grant gave more than £500 to the Building Fund. It is noteworthy that there were no competitive tenders for the building.

So the Institutions "grew in beauty side by side" under the supervision of a Joint Committee from both Institutions, who appear to have worked most amicably together. It is thus not surprising that the mistaken idea was formed in the public mind that the whole block of buildings—for the Blind and for the Deaf—were part and parcel of Henshaw's scheme.

It is interesting to note with what consummate care the Committees of the Blind Asylum, and of the Schools for the Deaf and Dumb, proceeded to fashion the two Institutions on the same lines. The following extracts from various "minutes" of the Blind Asylum Board give evidence of this :—

1. "That Mr. Lane be instructed to purchase chimney pieces, fire-grates and fenders, precisely similar to those purchased for the Deaf Schools."

2. "That Mr. Pooley, Chairman of the Board, be requested to engage Ann Royle to clean the Blind Asylum on the like terms as she formerly cleansed the Deaf and Dumb Schools." So Mrs. Royle's name goes down in history as the first "cleanser" of two important Institutions.

3. "That this Committee would unite with the Committee of the Deaf and Dumb Schools in the appointment of an apothecary."

The above named Mrs. Royle was evidently a ventilating expert, for we find another record that "Mrs. Royle be engaged from 28th April, 1838, at the rate of 5s. per week, to properly ventilate the Blind Asylum until further notice." Unfortunately history does not enlighten us as to the particular methods adopted by Mrs. Royle for this purpose.

The opening of the Asylum for the reception of inmates was delayed for over a year from lack of funds to provide the necessary furnishings and equipments, and this in spite of repeated urgent appeals to the charitable public of Manchester and district. Finally, it was deemed necessary to petition the Court of Chancery to allow a grant out of the accumulated funds in its hands, over and above the original bequest of £20,000. After much importunity the Court at last acceded to the request, and granted a sum of £3,000 for this purpose, and the Institution was opened on 30th September, 1839, when ten inmates were admitted.

The Chapel was opened for Divine Service on the 10th of June, 1838, the first Chaplain being the Rev. Thomas Buckley, appointed by the Bishop of Chester.

The galleries of the said Chapel were appropriated to the use of the respective Institutions.

The first Governor and Matron of the Blind Asylum were Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, who filled their important position most worthily and efficiently for twenty years. At the close of their term of service, brought about in the year 1859 through the failing health of Mr. Hughes, the Board of Management marked their appreciation of his successful conduct of the Institution by presenting him with an honorarium of £500.

To Mr. Hughes the world is indebted as the inventor of the first typewriting machine. This was known as "Hughes' Typograph," and was patented in the year 1852. The cost of the machines, however, was prohibitive owing to the small demand: and it remained for others to reap the reward of

Mr. Hughes' inventive genius, when about the year 1880 the Remington Company developed the principles of the Hughes' Typograph, and produced their No. 1 Machine. Specimens of Mr. Hughes' original machine, which was designed primarily to enable the Blind to communicate with the seeing, may be seen at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, as also a letter written thereon to Queen Victoria in 1851 on her visit to Worsley Hall, when Mr. Hughes and some of his pupils were presented to her, and she graciously accepted examples of work done in the Asylum.

By the year 1841 sufficient progress had been made in music to enable the Blind Choir and their teacher to conduct the Chapel Services, and the "Weekly Board appointed Wednesday afternoon in each week for exercise in sacred music, to which visitors to the Asylum may be admitted." The said exercises consisted in the singing of the Psalms of David. Apropos of this, the following paragraph from the Annual Report of the year 1843 is interesting, albeit somewhat amusing "as one proof of the docility and industry of the adult inmates who are instructed in music, it may be stated that they have voluntarily committed to memory the whole of the Psalms contained in the Book of Common Prayer. This they have done in a shorter space of time, so far as the Board are aware, than has been done in any similar Institution."

At this time more than half the inmates of the Asylum were blind as a result of smallpox, not having been vaccinated; and one third were blind from Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Although from two years prior to this, warnings to parents and others were issued every year with the Annual Reports, after the expiration of seventy years the percentage of children blind from Ophthalmia Neonatorum had not perceptibly decreased.

An interesting item in the accounts of this period was "Malt and Hops £50," from which we gather that brewing was carried on in the Institution.

In 1845 a new wing was added to the original buildings, thus providing a workroom" (in reality a dark cellar), and a Concert Hall over, on the walls of which latter, tablets bearing the names of donors and subscribers, from the foundation of the

Institution onward, are inscribed. This was a most valuable addition from an educational point of view, and is, indeed, a beautiful and useful room still.

At the end of six years the number of inmates in the Asylum was seventy, and the sales of goods manufactured by them reached £600 per annum; the principal product being cocoa matting. There were no pupils at this time under eleven years of age, a fact which goes to show that the elementary education of the Blind was no part of the scheme of Henshaw's Blind Asylum.

In 1851 it is recorded that "Handel's Messiah" was performed by the choir, "being the first instance of any company of blind persons performing a complete oratorio." Mr. George Freemantle was the teacher of music at the time, and under his tuition and conduct the services in the Chapel and concerts at the Institution took rank amongst the best musical performances of the day, the public coming many miles to have the pleasure of enjoying them.

In 1855 Mr. W. H. G. Crowder, who had been acting for some time as assistant teacher of music, was appointed Organist at Milton Parish Church, Rochdale. The following year, the first Schoolmaster, Mr. Robert Thompson, of the Academy of Dollar, Scotland, was appointed, "to undertake exclusively the *education* of the inmates."

The Chapel was consecrated by the Bishop of Manchester on 28th January, 1857.

The following year the Court of Chancery handed over Henshaw's Legacy and the Accumulated Funds, which they held, to the Board of Management, and they were re-invested in Railway Stock, the amount reaching nearly £50,000.

New workshop accommodation was provided in 1861. Brush-making was added to the trades already in operation (basket and mat-making) and some outside blind workers were employed as wage earners. Brush-making, however, was soon discontinued, as a sufficient outlet could not be obtained for the goods manufactured.

A few years later we hear for the first time of "an Association for promoting the welfare of the Blind," which had been started to assist those Blind workers who had been trained in the Asylum, and others in the city who were able to work. This Association, in 1864, approached the Blind Asylum Committee with a view to obtaining some help for its funds; the request, however, was declined.

The School, as an educational establishment for the teaching of English, etc., to the younger pupils, was now assuming definite shape, though, it may be observed, there were still no pupils in the Institution under the age of eleven, and only seven under fourteen, out of a total of eighty-one. An excellent organ, costing £600, was placed in the Concert Hall in 1866, and in the following years we read of the appointment of two officers whose names are familiar as linking up the present with the past generation of workers for the Blind—Mr. Arthur Hague, Music Master for forty years, and Mr. Thomas Taylor, Schoolmaster, who later filled the position of Superintendent of the Hardman Street Blind School, Liverpool.

The basket and mat-making trades were now making excellent progress, and further extension of buildings became necessary and was provided, thus giving accommodation at the same time for a greatly increased number of pupils, which, by the end of 1876, reached 106.

The appointment of Mr. and Mrs. James McCormick to the positions of Governor and Matron marks a distinct epoch in the history of the Institution. Mr. McCormick was a typical English gentleman, and under his guiding hand the tone and work of the Asylum rapidly reached a very high standard. He completely re-organized the whole Institution, and so established himself in the confidence of his Board of Management, that they wisely accepted his guidance, as that of a skilful pilot who knew how to "get there."

Embossed Roman Type Books had for many years been used in the School with very small results. These, in their turn, had been succeeded by "Lucas Type," a phonetic system, which had many votaries at the time, but which was doubtless

responsible for the very faulty spelling which prevailed amongst the blind children. But in 1881 the Braille system was introduced to the school, and a rapid change for the better ensued.

For many years after the founding of the Institution it would appear that the Board of Management were a little inclined to be more solicitous of a good credit balance at the Bank than of the progress of the Institution. With the advent of Mr. McCormick, however, a distinct change of policy is noticeable in the record of the Asylum, and the Committee took the sensible view that their first duty was to give to the Blind every opportunity possible to obtain a sound education and trade training; and further, to assist them by providing them with suitable employment, even though such a procedure should entail financial loss; and this policy has been boldly followed ever since, except for a period of about ten years, immediately following Mr. McCormick's death in the year 1892.

By the year 1881 Henshaw's Blind Asylum was rightly taking its place in the very forefront of Institutions for the Blind, and had invested funds to the value of £56,000: whilst in the following year the munificent bequest of Mr. J. Pendlebury enabled the Committee to erect new buildings, and practically remodel the whole place, separating the adults from the junior pupils, and establishing suitable classrooms, dormitories, etc., for the boys and girls.

The Board of Management now took over the outdoor workshops in Bloom Street, Salford, to carry them on in connection with the Institution.

The effect of Sir Francis, then Dr., Campbell's work at the Royal Normal College for the Blind at Upper Norwood, which made itself felt throughout the land, stimulated the Blind themselves, and also other Institutions to greater efforts for the uplifting of the intellectual training of the Blind. Several promising music students were transferred from Henshaw's to Norwood, and at a concert given in the Crystal Palace in 1883, conducted by Sir August Manns, Mr. F. Fowler, late of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, opened the proceedings by playing on the great organ Bach's Prelude and Fugue in D major in a masterly fashion.

Within the next ten years a very important addition was made to the Institution in the building of the "Manchester and Salford Workshops for the Blind" at the corner of Deansgate and Wood Street, in the city. This was opened in 1891, and enabled the Board of Management to transfer the Blind outworkers from the old and unsuitable premises in Bloom Street, Salford, to these commodious workshops. The establishment consists of a spacious ground floor which is entirely used as a shop and showrooms. On the first floor is the board room, overlooking Deansgate, and in the rear of this a stock-room and workmens' dining room and kitchen. The second and third floors provide spacious and airy well lighted workrooms for basket makers, and the fourth floor is a store room. There are two basements—one used as a fitting shop and sorting room, and the other, a willow and cane store with boiling and steeping tanks.

About fifty blind basket makers find constant employment here, and are paid full Trade Union rates of wages, subsidized by sundry allowances and bonuses, which bring the average man's week's pay to well over £1 per head.

The site for this building was kindly given by the Corporation of Manchester; the principal donations to the Building Fund were from Residuary Legatees of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth £1,000, the Gardner's Trust for the Blind £1,000, the Executors of Daniel Proctor, Esq., £1,000. The cost of building was about £9,000, the balance of £6,000 being collected chiefly through the personal efforts of the then Chairman of the Board of Management, Mr. S. L. Helm, who always proved himself a sympathetic friend to the blind.

The year 1891 was further signalized by what is known as the Nasmyth Bequest; a legacy of nearly £14,000 from Mr. James Nasmyth, of Hammerfield, Penshurst, Kent. This enabled the Board, in the year following, to increase the accommodation of the Institution to 182 "places." In addition to this, a truly magnificent Dining and Concert Hall, and a fine suite of kitchens was provided, as well as several spacious play-rooms and workrooms. In the new Concert Hall, which is

capable of seating 500 people, is a superb three manual organ—one of the finest in Manchester—bringing up the number of pedal organs accessible to the pupils at the Asylum to four.

Unfortunately, Mr. McCormick did not live to see the completion of the grand scheme of extension which he had so successfully inaugurated. He died in June, 1892. Of him it may truly be said “he lived for the Blind.”

At this period Henshaw's Blind Asylum was in its scope, equipment and work, a model of what such an Institution should be. During the next ten years, however, owing to various causes, the tide of the Asylum's success ebbed somewhat, and one of these periods of depression and trouble incidental to “the best laid schemes of mice and men” tried the patience and administration of the Board of Management.

A new constitution was drawn up, under the guidance of the Charity Commissioners, and henceforth the Board was constituted as follows:—Ten Co-optative members elected by the subscribers. Five Representative members from the Respective Corporations and Board of Guardians of Manchester and Salford.

Alderman J. Royle, Ex-Lord Mayor of Manchester, became Chairman of the Board in 1904, with Alderman Henry Plummer as his deputy Chairman, and in December of that year Mr. W. Hy. Illingworth, who had held the position of Head Master of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, for twenty years, was appointed Superintendent at Old Trafford.

In the past ten years the whole work of the Asylum has been re-organized.

With the appointment of Mr. Isaac Davidson, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., A.R.C.M. (Lond.), a new era commenced in the Music Department of the Institution, and owing to an ever-increasing number of students for training in the profession of music and pianoforte tuning, it became evident to the Board of Management in 1912 that the old practising rooms were totally inadequate, and that some new scheme must be entered upon.

Unfortunately, however, the whole available building space was already covered. Ultimately in 1913 a large twelve roomed house, opposite to the Asylum was acquired, and fully equipped as a "College of Music." It is a model establishment where the students pursue their studies under most congenial conditions.

In September last, two students of the College succeeded in taking their Mus. Bac. degree at Durham University, whilst others are now in varying stages of preparation to the same end. Three *present* students hold positions as Church Organists, and several *past* students fill similar posts.

In addition to organ and piano, the violin, viola, 'cello, drums, and tube bells are taught, the string orchestra of the Asylum being, we believe, the only one—of blind students—in the country.

In the year 1907 the Board of Education certified and recognised Henshaw's Blind Asylum as a School of Technology for the Blind, and there are now eighty young blind—between the ages of sixteen and twenty-two—undergoing training in one or other of the trades taught in our Technical School. On concluding their course here, these young men and women either enter the workshops of the Asylum as paid workers, or go home to earn their own living.

During the year 1912, the Board of Management declined a request from the workers for the establishment of the minimum wage principle, as they did not consider such a principle conducive to industry, or fair to the industrious. They decided, however, in place thereof, to give a weekly grant of four shillings per head to all their blind journeymen and journeywomen, in addition to wages, irrespective of the amount actually earned. This grant is termed "Compensation for Blindness," and is paid on a Tuesday, coming in, as the men say, "very handy when funds are getting low during the week." Holidays, to the extent of twelve days per annum, are paid for at the rate of half-a-crown per day, and all the workmen are provided with a suit of working clothes and boots every year.

Chiefly through the initiative of Captain J. C. Hobbs, for long an honoured member of the Board, Massage, as a subject

of instruction, was introduced in the year 1895, and the first young women to graduate in this subject, speedily found places in Hydropathics. They were the first blind girls in this country to follow this profession. A large number have been so trained since, the great majority of whom are doing very well indeed.

The scope of the Asylum's work now covers provision for maintenance, education, technical training, employment and care of about *four hundred* blind people, including eighty feeble and infirm, who receive weekly grants, termed "Outdoor Allowances" in their own homes.

The latest scheme of development in connection with the Institution, is concerned with the erection of more up-to-date and more extensive workshop accommodation. for which purpose the late Mr. James Gresham, shortly before his death last year, presented the Board of Management with his estate of Oak Bank, Old Trafford.

THE MARY ANN SCOTT MEMORIAL HOME AND WORKSHOPS FOR BLIND MEN AND WOMEN.

This beautiful and commodious establishment is situated on the estate known as "Hayesleigh," near the junction of Chester Road and Warwick Road, Old Trafford.

The house was built by the late Sir Thomas Bazley for his residence, and stands in beautifully-wooded and extensive grounds, comprising over three acres in all, laid out in charming lawns, terraces, and walks, with fine conservatory, fernery, etc.

The estate was purchased in 1907 by Mr. C. H. Scott, J.P., one of the members of the Board of Management, and by him presented to the Asylum as a memorial to his late wife. For two years it was utilised as a secondary school for blind boys, but in 1910 the Board decided to concentrate all the educational work at the main Institution, and to transfer the older inmates to "Hayesleigh," where, amidst more congenial surroundings, those who are aged or unable to work might pass their time in peace and comfort.

The whole house was reconstructed, and through the kindness of the generous donor a new wing was added, and this, with the spacious workshop accommodation provided in the

rear of the main building, where the able bodied are employed in basket-making, mat-making, and brush-making, forms one of the finest Institutions of the kind in the world.

On his death in 1912, Mr. Scott left the sum of £3,000 as an endowment for the Home.

Sixty inmates are accommodated—thirty men and thirty women. Of these twenty-five places are reserved for the older folk who are “past work,” and thirty-five for adult learners.

It is truly a “home” in every sense of the word. The residents enjoy a maximum of liberty with a minimum of restriction, and are as happy as the birds whose song is continually to be heard in the trees around them.

“Hayesleigh” is an ideal establishment, and stands as a lasting and appropriate tribute to the kind generosity of the gracious donor whose real sympathy with and interest in the Blind are so gratefully remembered.

So the Institution founded by Thomas Henshaw a century ago has multiplied and grown. The grain of mustard seed has become a tree of sustenance and protection—not for birds of the air—but for blind people of all ages, and from all localities, and is not a little proud of the large percentage of successes achieved by its ex-pupils as self-supporting, self-respecting, and useful citizens.

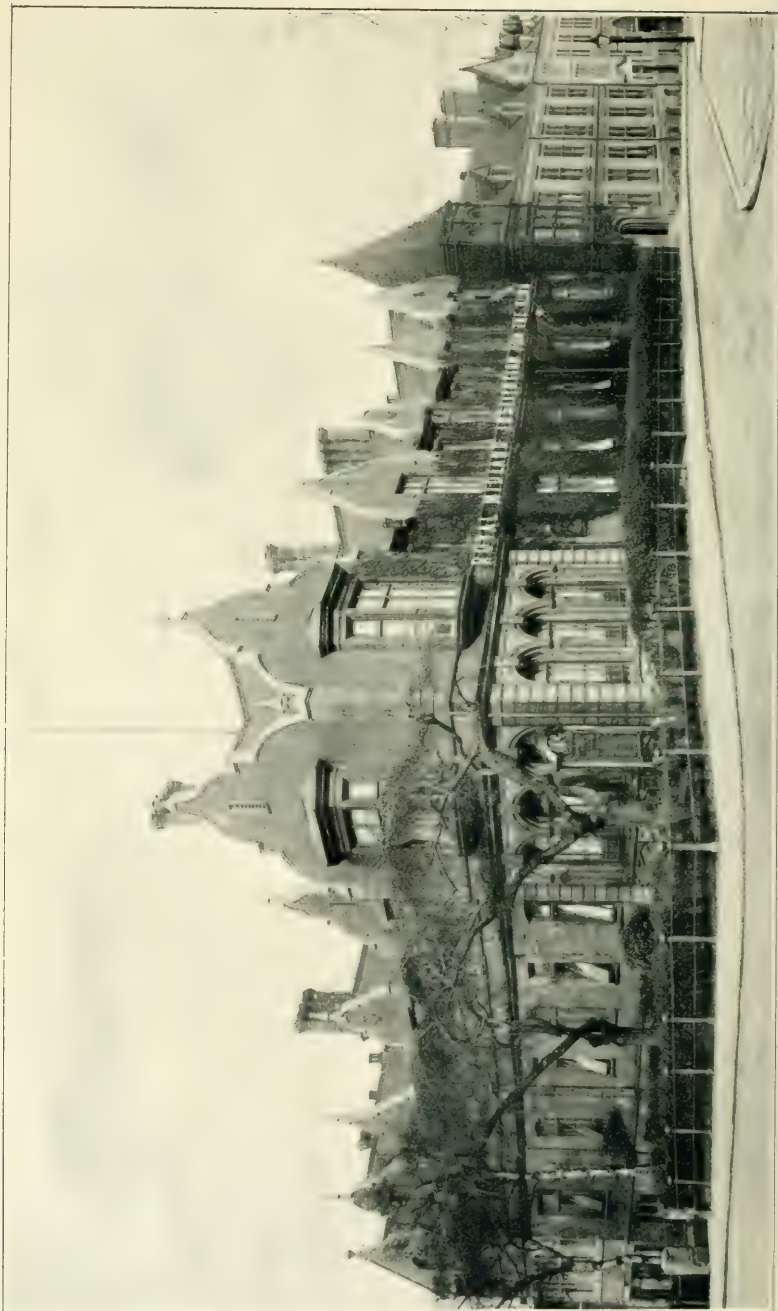
DEPARTMENTS.

1. Kindergarten. 2. Junior School. 3. Technical School.
4. Workshops. 5. Asylum or Home. 6. Outdoor Allowances.

EMPLOYMENTS TAUGHT.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Knitting—Hand & Machine. | 8. Mat-making. |
| 2. Swedish Weaving. | 9. Brush-making. |
| 3. Massage. | 10. Boot & Shoe Repairing. |
| 4. Shorthand & Typewriting. | 11. Skein Seating. |
| 5. Upholstery. | 12. Telephony. |
| 6. Chair-seating, | 13. Profession of Music. |
| 7. Basket-making. | 14. Pianoforte Tuning & Repairing. |

There is a staff of twenty-four teachers, eight of whom are blind. The charge for maintenance in the Elementary, as well as in the Technical School, is £36 per annum.



The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 70.

APRIL 20TH, 1915.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. We have to record, with much regret, four more deaths of well-known and earnest workers on behalf of the Blind—Mr. A. B. Norwood (of whom a special obituary notice has been written at our request by his close friend, Mr. Pine), Mr. F. O. Smithers, Alderman Royle, and Mr. G. B. Kidd.

Mr. F. O. Smithers was born at Greenwich in 1833, and was the fifth son of the Rev. Dr. Smithers, of Queen's College, Oxford. In 1883 he was appointed Secretary to the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Co., and its Managing Director in 1900. He was also a Director of other South American Railway Companies. He formed one of the Guard of Honour which received H.R.H. the Princess of Wales (now the Queen Mother) when she arrived at Gravesend to be married to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (afterwards King Edward VII), in March, 1863. He continued his interest in the Volunteer Movement, and up to the time of his death was a member of the National Reserve. He was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical and other Societies. He was the Father of the Worshipful Company of Turners, being Master of the Company from 1871 to 1873. He was connected with many Charities, and became a member of the Committee of the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, in 1885, Vice-Chairman in 1907, and had been Chairman since 1909. He was also Treasurer of the Boys'

Home, Regent's Park, for twelve years. He took a deep interest in the welfare of children, and was a strong advocate for the care of pupils after leaving school. The After-Care Committees in both the School for the Blind and the Boy's Home are—largely through his efforts—now doing excellent work. The Blind have always found a friend in Mr. Smithers, and not only the present pupils and staff of the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind, but a large number of past pupils, resident in the Metropolis, will mourn his loss with all of us. It has been our pleasure and privilege to know him for many years, and we greatly admired his kind and generous nature, which won for him the esteem of all those who came into contact with him.

Alderman John Royle, who died on February 1st, at 78 years of age, was Chairman of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, and with his great business capabilities and earnest endeavours did much in carrying out the recent improvements and additions to the Institution. He had lived in Manchester from his birth, and the large gathering of representatives of the many organisations of the district at his funeral, showed how he had won the affection and esteem of his fellow citizens, and how they appreciated his valuable services.

Mr. G. B. Kidd, who died in January at the age of 78, was Chairman of the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, and had been an energetic member of the Committee for thirty years. He was a man of high character and of a fine sense of fairness and justice. He never allowed any personal feeling or petty prejudices to interfere with his judgment, and he was a man of most tender heart and affectionate disposition.

2. At the great age of 95, Fanny Crosby, the blind hymn writer, has passed away at her home in the United States of America. She lost her sight when six weeks old. She was a student at the New York Institute for the Blind, and afterwards became a teacher there. She is said to have written nearly 6,000 hymns, the best known of which are "Safe in the arms

of Jesus," and "Rescue the perishing, care for the dying." She also wrote many poems, and the title of the first book was "The Blind Girl and the Poems," in which many of the verses are autobiographical.

3. The following successes have been obtained by students of the Royal Normal College for the Blind: Helen Liles and Isabella Vass gained their L.R.A.M. for pianoforte playing, and Elsie Buscall for singing; Elsie Buscall, Florence Hughes and Maud Steel passed the Advanced Grade of the Associated Board for pianoforte playing, and Gladys Mickleburgh and Jack Wyeth passed the Intermediate Grade; Osmand Davage, William Edwards and Henry Newell gained their A.R.C.O.

4. Mr. William Murray, a pupil of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, has passed the Final Examination for the Degree of M.A. at Edinburgh University, with First Class Honours in Mental Philosophy, and Mr. William Morrison, also a pupil at the School, passed the recent Associate Examination of the College of Organists.

5. Mr. H. F. Lakeman, former Student of the Royal Normal College, and now at New College, Oxford, has come successfully through Pass Moderations, and is now reading for the Honour School of Modern History.

6. The following information has been received about former students at the College for the higher education of the Blind, Worcester.

Mr. Etcheverria has on two occasions arranged for organ recitals at Ashford. On January 27th the programme included compositions by Messrs. Wolstenholme, Logan, Gourlay and Oke, all old students.

Mr. L. W. Passmore has become a member of the firm of Templar and Passmore, Solicitors, of Tunbridge Wells.

Mr. Mowatt is busy with Recruiting and Relief Work.

Mr. T. H. S. Palmer is acting as Masseur for the wounded soldiers at Blenheim.

Mr. H. F. W. Lane had a poem entitled "God and Man" in "The New Age" last January,

The Rev. C. E. Bolam is Chaplain to the Yeomanry stationed at Lincoln.

7. Mr. H. H. S. E. Spencer has written a one act play called "The Mad Hatter," which will be performed shortly at "The Rehearsal Theatre" in London.

8. Miss Robinson, who is blind, has been accepted for entrance as a student at Somerville College next October.

9. The meetings of the Departmental Committee, which have been suspended since August, will be resumed this month.

10. When Mr. C. Arthur Pearson opened the new wing of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind last February, he announced that three ladies, who wished to remain anonymous, had promised to pay for the publication in Braille of the Old Testament in Welsh, and that Mr. David Morgan, of Cardiff, would do the same for the New Testament. The entire Bible will consist of thirty-nine volumes, which will be sold at 1/- per volume by the British and Foreign Bible Society. The fund previously raised by Mr. Joseph Hall for publishing in Braille the Bible in Welsh is to be utilised in buying portions of the Bible for the poorest of the Blind.

11. Miss Edith Wright is acting as temporary Organising Secretary of the North of England Union of Societies for the Blind in the room of Miss Sadgrove, who has to take three months rest, as her health has broken down after the long illnesses of her father and mother and their subsequent deaths. Miss Wright started the work of the Union in 1906, and carried it on until 1910. Recently she has been assisting in organising the work of the Midland Union.

12. In consequence of the lamented death of Mr. Norwood, the next examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind will not be held at York, but, by kind permission of the Committee, at the School for the Blind, Broomhill, Sheffield, on May 18th, 19th and 20th.

13. It is very gratifying to know that any soldier or sailor who loses his sight in this terrible war will be well looked after and cared for by the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Care Committee, of which Mr. C. Arthur Pearson is Chairman, and to which a preliminary grant of £5,000 has been made from the National Relief Fund. Mr. Otto Kahn has placed at the disposal of the Committee St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, a house with fourteen acres of grounds opening into the park. Owing, however, to necessary alterations the house could not be occupied at once, and until it was ready for occupation Mrs. Lewis Hall kindly allowed 6, Bayswater Hill, to be used as a temporary hostel. The maintenance of the hostel is undertaken by a joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society, the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and the National Institute for the Blind, and the occupants will be taught to read and write in Braille, type-writing, and other things that will be valuable for them to acquire before setting to work to learn some definite trade.

Several Institutions for the Blind have volunteered assistance. At the Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh, a special Committee has been appointed to meet the needs of the Scottish blinded soldiers and sailors. The Committees of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, of the Birmingham Royal Institution, and of other Institutions are prepared to give the blinded men free training in any of the trades taught in their workshops.

14. The Examinations of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships tenable at the Royal Normal College, are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th February, June,

and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

15. A sixth edition (revised) of the pamphlet "Information with regard to Institutions, Societies and Classes for the Blind in the United Kingdom," by Mr. H. J. Wilson, secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, is in preparation and will be ready in a few weeks. Twelve thousand copies of the pamphlet have been printed hitherto and are now out of print. Two thousand copies will be printed of the sixth edition.

16. The Headmaster of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, has devised a book-keeping frame, which, after the test of a term's work in the Classes of the College, has proved admirably adapted to the ordinary double-entry book-keeping. The same "brass" is used for both journal and ledger, and for all the subsidiary books. A class was taken through the requirements of the University Local and London Chamber of Commerce Examinations, and it is claimed that the work done in Braille takes no more room and very little more time than the ordinary pen-and-ink work. After some half-dozen lessons it was found that boys could enter the journal, post thence to the ledger, balance, and then draw up profit and loss account and a balance sheet with considerable speed and accuracy. Loose-leaf account books are used, and a complete system of cross reference is provided for. The Headmaster hopes shortly to publish a booklet explaining the use of the frame and suggesting methods of book-keeping. The cost of the frame is about 8/6.

17. Last February the new wing of the Cardiff Institute for the Blind was opened by Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, and he was able to announce that it was opened free of debt, as Mr. D. A. Thomas had sent him a cheque for £350 on hearing that that was the amount required to pay off the debt on the new building. The additional accommodation consists of four work-rooms, storage, and an office and boardroom, and it is hoped

that the workers now numbering 67 may be increased to nearly 100. There is no doubt that Mr. Pearson's visit and stirring speech gave a great impetus to work being carried on on behalf of the Blind in Wales.

18. The Trustees of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust have made a considerable grant to the National Institute for the Blind for the production in stereotyped Braille of the following twenty-eight books :—Matthew Arnold's "Poems," Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice," R. D. Blackmore's "Lorna Doone," Charles Darwin's "Voyage of the Beagle," Charles Dickens' "Nicholas Nickleby," George Eliot's "The Mill on the Floss," Mrs. Gaskell's "Cranford," Thomas Hardy's "Far from the Madding Crowd," Charles Kingsley's "Westward Ho!," Rudyard Kipling's "Jungle Book," Lord Lytton's "The Last of the Barons," Macaulay's "Warren Hastings," M. Maeterlinck's "The Life of the Bee," George Meredith's "Diana of the Crossways," G. Murray's (translated by) "Euripides," Charles Reade's "Cloister and the Hearth," D. G. Rossetti's "Ballads and Sonnets," John Ruskin's "Sesame and Lillies," R. Brinsley Sheridan's "School for Scandal" and "The Rivals," Sir W. Scott's "The Heart of Midlothian," Goldwin Smith's "The United States. An Outline of Political History," R. L. Stevenson's "Kidnapped," R. L. Stevenson's "Catriona," Swinburne's "Poems" (abbreviated), W. M. Thackeray's "Vanity Fair," Trevelyan's "Macaulay's Life and Letters," G. M. Trevelyan's "Life of John Bright," Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and "Tom Sawyer."

The plates will remain the property of the Institute, but, in addition, the Trustees are paying for the production of thirty copies of each of these books, which become their own property. These the Carnegie Trustees are generously presenting to the National Lending Library for the Blind, thereby marking their sense of the widespread usefulness of that Institution among the Blind of the entire country.

The National Library will issue these books with special facilities as to numbers and time-limit to its ordinary members.

and especially to Schools, Libraries, and Societies which subscribe to the Library, as the Committee wish to make the works as widely useful as possible.

19. A price list of books and music embossed in Braille type at the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, was published last January, and contains Educational Works, Biography, Poetry, Religion, Fiction and General, which shows how busy the printing press has been. The price list in Braille can be obtained for 6d. post free. The School publishes three magazines, viz.: "Hora Jucunda," "Hora Jucunda" Supplement, and the "Craigmillar Harp," which is a musical magazine, and also embosses four other magazines.

20. On February 27th there was a meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind, when there were present—Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. G. M. Campbell, W. H. Illingworth, A. P. Pearson, H. Stainsby, W. E. Taylor, W. H. Thurman, T. W. Martin, H. W. P. Pine, and H. J. Wilson. The draft report for 1914 was presented and approved with slight amendments. Final arrangements were made for the annual and public meetings on March 20th. The death of Mr. A. B. Norwood was reported, and resolutions of condolence were passed. The two vacancies on the Committee caused by death were filled by the election of Messrs. Ritchie and Story. Mr. Maddocks, Secretary of the Sheffield School for the Blind, having kindly written and invited the College to hold their next examination at Sheffield instead of at York on account of Mr. Norwood's death, the offer was cordially accepted. A letter was read from the Board of Education raising no objection to the bestowal of certificates without examination under certain conditions. A recommendation from the Fellows that Fellowships should be granted to Miss Garaway, Dr. Eichholz, and Mr. Guy M. Campbell was unanimously approved and further referred to the Council. At the invitation of the Committee of the National Institute for the

Blind Miss Garaway was nominated to represent the College on the Uniform Type Committee.

The annual meeting of the Council of the College was held at 2 p.m. on March 20th, when the annual report for 1914 was read and adopted, and the one third of the Committee retiring was re-elected. Miss Lily Bell and Miss Edith M. Jones were elected members of the Council. The Hon. Officers were thanked for their services during the past year, and Mr. Henry J. Wilson, the Hon. Arthur M. Kinnaird, Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, Mr. Henry Stainsby, and Messrs. Drury Thurgood Hatfield and Co. were re-appointed Chairman, Treasurer, Solicitor, Registrar, and Auditors respectively for the current year.

The bestowal of Fellowships on Miss Garaway, Dr. Eichholz, and Mr. Guy Campbell was authorised, and the fair records of the first and last named were read.

At 3.30 p.m. a public meeting was held, when Mrs. Wilton Phipps, Vice-Chairman of the L.C.C. Special Schools Sub-Committee, presided. After Mr. H. J. Wilson, the Chairman of the Council, had given a short explanatory statement of the work and objects of the College, and Mr. Stainsby, Hon. Registrar, had drawn attention to the salient points in the annual report, Mrs. Wilton Phipps gave an excellent address, dealing especially with myopes and the financial difficulties attending children's further instruction on arriving at the age of sixteen.

Mrs. Wilton Phipps said: "I confess I rise with very great diffidence, for I know very little about what you all know so much about. I am here even now under false pretences, for I am no longer Chairman of the Special Schools Sub-Committee, but I am still Vice-Chairman, and of course my interest will always be the same, for it is impossible to work for at least twenty years and then lose interest.

First I want to allude to the great loss the Council has sustained in the deaths of Sir Francis Campbell, Miss Moon, Mr. Munby, and Mr. Norwood, to whom I understand a great deal of the success of the College has been due.

As to the myopes, I feel more at home here, for it is during my time that schools for them have been started. Experimental classes were started in various ways, and one was opened at Tooting in February, 1912, and two months later another at Holloway for sixty children. Excellent work was done at these two schools.

As regards the description of pupils admitted, the Americans use the expression 'defects of vision,' and I think that that is a better term than 'myopes.' The children are taught entirely by blackboard and chalk, without books, and everything is done to make these children use their eyes as little as possible. Since 1912 nothing further was done until this year, when a large programme was drawn up. It was intended to open a great many similar classes, as it was found that it would be far better and—what will appeal to you if you are ratepayers—more economical to have special classes in the ordinary schools. The children can then take part in the life of the school with the other children, and they do not go out into the world stamped as having come from a special school—blind school, myope school, or whatever it may be. Now four new schools are going to be opened, and eight more in the course of time scattered all over London. Places are scheduled for 226 children who will be moved into the myope classes as soon as possible. There are schools and children, but no teachers. In October last a meeting was held to appoint the teachers for these classes. Many teachers applied, but they had no knowledge of the special work required of them, indeed many of them did not even know what a myope school was, and it was impossible to appoint them. The Council decided that they must start classes at once to train the teachers, who were excellent in other ways.

These classes have been carried on for over six months. I felt a little sorry when I heard that the College could not take any part in training the teachers, because I am sure that the training they can get from lectures in six months is not sufficient. But there is another important point. What is to happen to these children when they leave these classes? The children

have been trained to some occupation, but how are they going to earn their living when they leave? One other point I feel very strongly about, and that is what we are to do in regard to the training of boys and girls leaving our schools at the age of sixteen. There are only a few scholarships available. Again we have no means at all of providing the children with work, and they soon forget what they have learnt. The moment is not opportune to suggest anything about workshops, but after the war we must try and provide some permanent means to enable them to earn their living. I only mention these facts because they have been brought so much to my notice, and I have seen so much of the difficulty of knowing what to do with these children. The training is provided, but where are we to find employment for them? It seemed to me that this was an appropriate place to mention this matter so that when the time comes, as I hope it may before long, we may turn our minds to take some steps in this direction for their benefit."

After several members of the College had spoken on the subjects, the gold medal awarded to Miss E. R. Scott for the prize essay on "The History of the Education of the Blind prior to 1830" was presented by Mrs. Wilton Phipps to Miss Bloxam in Miss Scott's unavoidable absence. Then followed the ceremony of the bestowal of the Fellowships on Miss Garaway and Mr. Guy Campbell.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was moved by Mr. H. J. Wilson, seconded by the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, and carried with acclamation.

At 4.50 p.m. there was a meeting of the Committee, when Mr. H. J. Wilson was elected Chairman for the ensuing year. It was reported that Messrs. Ritchie and Story had consented to act as members of the Committee, and that the authorities of the Sheffield Institution for the Blind had kindly consented to allow the examination to be held there this year. A draft of the certificate without examination was submitted. It was agreed to print 500 copies of Miss Scott's essay to be sold at

6d. each. Miss Garaway and Mr. Wilson were appointed delegates to the meetings of the League of the Empire.

21. The Blind Relief and Visiting Society for Brighton, Hove, and District, carried on by Miss Moon for fifty-three years with most earnest love and care, is going to be administered gratuitously by Miss Munro-Ritchie, who assisted Miss Moon in the management for fourteen years, and is personally known to all the Blind in the district. A small Committee has been appointed to assist Miss Munro-Ritchie, whose address and that of the Society now is 69, Dyke Road, Brighton.

22. For the year ended November 30th, 1914, the sales at the Royal Glasgow Institution for the Blind amounted to no less a sum than £34,330 6s. 1d., and the actual profit was £572 7. 7d. £3,518 were paid in wages to blind workers, and £5,027 8s. 5d. in augmentation of wages, sick and holiday allowance, special grants, &c,

23. A most interesting article appeared in *The Times* of April 8th, on "Shell Blindness. The Problem of Wounds to Consciousness" from which we extract the following:—

"The war has produced already more than one medical surprise, but probably the blindness following the explosion of shells, with which ophthalmologists have recently become familiar, is the most remarkable phenomenon yet encountered. The blindness is not the result of direct injury, but apparently of concussion.

A man [says a writer in the *Lancet*] after more or less prolonged fatigue, induced by marching and exposure in the trenches, is incapacitated by the explosion of a shell in his immediate vicinity. He may be merely knocked down or thrown into the air and more or less seriously injured or wounded by concussion, shrapnel bullets, or shell splinters. Consciousness is lost for a variable time, but often not so far as to prevent automatic movements, so that the man may walk in a dazed condition to a dressing station. At this stage, it would appear,

the mental balance is very much disturbed, nor does memory retain any record of the phase. But the man is 'instantaneously struck blind,' and this may be associated with deafness, loss of smell and taste." . . . "Eventually complete, though slow, recovery takes place."

THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

North of England Union. The Executive Committee met in York on the 6th February, when Lieut.-Col. Jolly, V.D. (Preston) was unanimously elected Chairman in the place of the late Mr. F. J. Munby.

Col. Jolly expressed his thanks, and in feeling terms moved a vote of condolence with the family of the late Mr. Munby. He alluded to the work of the late Chairman, and pointed out that the Union had lost an esteemed and valued friend who had given much time and sound advice in forwarding their work in the North of England. His love for everything connected with the welfare of the Blind was shown at all times to a marked degree. His courtesy, kindness and conscientious work in connection with that Union and the furtherance of blind work generally would never be effaced from their memory.

The Chairman also moved a vote of condolence on behalf of the meeting with Miss Sadgrove, their excellent Organising Secretary, who had lost both her parents since the last meeting, to Miss I. M. Heywood, the Honorary Secretary, who had lost her brother (Colonel Heywood), and extended the sympathy of all present to Mr. A. B. Norwood, M.A., one of their Executive, who was very seriously unwell. Mr. Councillor Barker (Manchester), Mr. M. Priestly (Bradford), and Mr. H. Von. Niederhausern (North Shields) endorsed the remarks of the Chairman.

The Statement of Accounts presented by the Hon. Treasurer was received as satisfactory. Several important cases dealing with the after care of outside blind were considered and dealt with.

It was decided to hold the next Annual Meeting at Manchester in May next.

Metropolitan Union. Meetings of the Executive Committee have been held on February 6th, when, amongst other business, the draft report for 1914 was considered and amended, and on March 6th, when it was reported that Viscount Hampden, the new Lord Lieutenant for Herts had kindly consented to be Vice-President. The death of Mr. Norwood was reported, and resolutions of condolence passed. Several new Hon. District representatives were elected. Arrangements were made for the annual meeting. The Executive also met at 11 a.m. on March 27th, when the proof of the annual report was finally revised, and at 12 noon the annual meeting took place. Mr. H. J. Wilson, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Guy Campbell, Dr. Ranger, and Mr. Lewis were re-elected Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Solicitor, and Hon. Auditor for the ensuing year. The retiring members of the Executive Committee were also re-elected. The adoption of the report for 1914 was moved by Sir John Brickwood, seconded by Mr. W. Frost, and carried unanimously.

Eastern Counties Union. On March 18th a well-attended meeting of the Lincolnshire Blind Association was held in the Church House, Lincoln, when the Earl of Ancaster presided, and was appointed President of the Association. The Rev. C. E. Bolam, the indefatigable Hon. Secretary, gave an interesting address, and also the Chairman of the Association, who said that the principal objects of the Society were preventive, alleviative and educative.

THE ROYAL MIDLAND INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, NOTTINGHAM.

By Mr. H. W. P. Pine, F.C.T.B., Secretary

The Royal Midland Institution for the Blind which now occupies extensive premises in Chaucer Street, Nottingham, was founded in the year 1843. It first occupied a house in Park Street, off the great Market Place, and it is interesting to relate

that it had its origin in the gathering together of a few blind persons with the object of teaching them to read the Bible.

The records of these early days are scanty, but as is frequently the case, the attention to spiritual needs quickly showed the necessity for aid in regard to material wants, and a small School was opened on the premises for the education and industrial training of the Blind. Amongst those who were foremost in this pioneer work and were amongst the founders of the Institution, were a Miss Chambers, herself blind, and Miss Woods, a Quaker lady, who for many years took the deepest interest in the Institution until her death in 1898.

So the work quietly progressed, until in the year 1849 the purchase of a piece of land and the erection of a suitable building thereon as an Institution for the Blind were determined upon. Doubtless through the instrumentality and influence of Miss Woods, a Mr. Samuel Fox, a Quaker benefactor of that day, made an offer of half an acre of land, and a further plot of 1,200 yards adjoining was purchased by those interested. It was decided that "a building should be erected for the reception of forty boarders, the cost not to exceed £3,000." •

About this time a proposal to extend the benefits of the Institution to the poor blind of the adjoining counties of Derby, Leicester, and Lincoln was brought forward, and gatherings took place in the county towns of Derby, Leicester, and Lincoln to consider the scheme.

At a meeting in the Town Hall, Derby, on January 29th. 1850, Mr. William Evans, M.P., in the Chair, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:—

1. "That this meeting cordially approves of the objects of the 'Midland Institution for the Blind,' and considers that it will afford a convenient means by which the poor blind of this county may obtain a plain and useful education."

2. "That a Committee be appointed for the purpose of raising donations and subscriptions in this county and town; and who are directed to appoint two of their number to act on the Executive Committee at Nottingham."

A meeting was also held at the County Rooms, Leicester,

on April 2nd, 1850, Mr. C. W. Packe, presiding, when similar resolutions were unanimously agreed to. The Lincoln meeting followed in the ensuing year.

It will thus be seen that the building was intended to serve for the needs of these four Midland counties, and Rutland seems to have been shortly afterwards included, for in the ninth Report published in 1852 the Institution is entitled "The Midland Institution for the Blind of the United Counties of Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Lincoln, and Rutland."

In order still further to give the counties an equal share in the Institution the land and buildings were vested in twenty-four trustees selected equally from the four first named counties.

The foundation stone of the building (which was of red brick with stone dressings, in the Elizabethan style) was laid at Nottingham on 10th August, 1852, by the Right Honourable the Earl Manvers, of Thoresby, who became the first President. Representatives from the other counties embraced in the scheme attended, and the pupils were also present and sang a portion of the 41st metrical Psalm and the National Anthem.

About the same time the building fund was largely assisted by the zealous exertions of a number of ladies, who promoted a bazaar, from which the net sum of £2,026 10s. was realised.

The pupils of the Institution while at its first home in Park Street are stated to have numbered seven boarders and eleven day pupils, and this was apparently the extent of the accommodation, as applications were refused on the ground of want of room. The School was under the care of an intelligent young man, Mr. Thomas Parr, who himself suffered from total blindness, and to whom much credit is due for the way in which he prepared himself by self education. He occupied his post for the long period of forty-nine years, only retiring in 1891, and no one can exaggerate the good that his influence and teaching conferred on many generations of the young blind.

That there was a certain amount of industrial training and that manufactures were carried on to some extent in the early days of the Institution is evident, for when a move was made to Chaucer Street it was stated that in addition to the numerous

articles then already made by the pupils it was proposed to introduce the making of matting and mattresses. The sales of goods for the year 1853 were only £100. Music was also taught, for we find a record that the purchase of a new organ was in contemplation, and it was erected in 1854.

It is creditable to the energy and zeal of the earnest workers for the blind in these early days that some £6,000 was raised to carry out the scheme. The building and furnishing were completed at a cost of £4,877, and £1,000 was invested in the funds.

At the time of the opening of the new building there were thirty-two inmates, while in 1856 the number had increased to fifty-three, thirty-eight boarders and fifteen day pupils and workers, thus showing the need of an Institution of the kind at that time. The first Superintendent and Matron were Mr. and Mrs. Coburn, who fulfilled their duties with satisfaction for eighteen years.

Besides industrial training and the ordinary branches of education, music was also taught, and that the pupils had attained considerable proficiency seems to be borne out by the fact that monthly concerts, given on the first Wednesday in every month, were commenced in 1855.

It is also recorded that the new Church of St. Matthew's which was erected in 1856 in the immediate neighbourhood, afforded greater facilities for the pupils' attendance at public worship, and a portion of them constituted the choir. For many years the incumbent of the Church attended weekly at the Institution for the purpose of imparting religious instruction to the inmates.

Brush-making, which now forms the largest and most successful of the Institution's industries, was introduced in 1860, and this, with basket-making and mat and matting making, formed for many years the staple trading work of the Institution.

In this year, too, the Institution lost its first President, Earl Manvers, who laid the foundation stone. He was succeeded in the office by his son, and later by his grandson, the present Earl Manvers, who still holds that office.

The income of the Institution in these days, and, indeed, for many subsequent years of its history, was mainly derived from charitable sources. There was no endowment, and only a small amount of income was received from invested capital. It was customary, therefore, to arrange meetings in support of the Institution and concerts by the choir, in Derby, Lincoln, and Leicester and other towns in the Institution's area. Demonstrations were also given by the pupils in the methods of reading, writing and arithmetic. Most years saw two or three towns thus visited.

Judged from the standpoint of the present day in regard to the training of the young blind, it is somewhat curious to notice that in the Annual Report for 1866 it is urged that "although the rules allow of pupils being admitted at seven years of age, no child should be sent under ten, as it is found from experience that from ten to fourteen is the most suitable age." Opinion has certainly changed in this respect during the last fifty years. How much of bad habit and manner had to be eradicated when blind children were not sent before ten! The Act of 1863 requires that education should begin at five years.

In the year 1866 a curious bequest was made to the Institution. The late Mr. Samuel Doubleday, of Nottingham, left £500 to the incumbent and Churchwardens of St. Matthew's Church, Nottingham, in trust, out of the annual income to pay yearly £1 1s. to each of the incumbents of St. Matthew's, St. Peter's, and St. Mary's one year, and of St. Thomas', St. Paul's, and Holy Trinity the following year, and so on alternately, to be selected each year, and to the ministers of two Nonconformist places of Worship in Nottingham, who should preach a sermon for the benefit of the Midland Institution for the Blind, and 5s. to the organist of each of such Churches or Chapels; £1 1s. to the Superintendent of the Institution, 10s. 6d. to the Matron, 5s. to the Assistant Matron, and 1s. to every pupil living in the Institution; £1 1s. to each of the Churchwardens of St. Matthews, and the residue to such four or more blind pupils as had "conducted themselves virtuously and obediently."

This somewhat eccentric but kind-hearted old gentleman, observing the blind pupils wending their way on Sundays to the services at St. Matthew's Church in weather often none too favourable, made a further gift to the Institution of a number of large cotton umbrellas of the carriage type. Though these were eminently satisfactory so far as keeping the pupils dry was concerned, the young people's vanity caused them to strongly object to use them.

The Braille system was introduced into the School as early as the year 1874, considerably earlier, it is believed, than in some of the chief Schools, a fact which speaks well for its up-to-dateness. Books were scarce in those days, and it is recorded that in 1875 the male pupils embossed in the Braille system, under the supervision of the schoolmaster, Mr. Parr, all their class books in geography, history, etc.

Previous to that time the embossed systems used were the Roman, Lucas and Moon, and there was great confusion and loss of time, but with the introduction of Braille these ceased to be taught.

Much good musical work was accomplished during this period and in succeeding years, and there was a strong choir under Mr. Bond, who was himself blind, under his successor, the late Mr. F. M. Ward and under Mr. Houseley, F.R.C.O., who in 1889 resigned his appointment to become organist of Denver Cathedral, and who has since won much fame as a musician and composer on the other side of the Atlantic. In the early eighties Dr. Campbell, of the Royal Normal College, visited the Institution with the College choir and gave a concert, the proceeds of which (upwards of £80) were devoted to the purchase of pianos, of which there was a great insufficiency. The Royal Normal College was then actively establishing itself as an Academy of Music, and looking out for the most promising pupils from other Institutions. Up to that time it had been the custom for the Nottingham Institution to train and finish its own pupils in music, but it now became the practice for the best students to be transferred under scholarships to Norwood, thus somewhat lessening the public

success, if not the value, of the Institution's musical work.

The Secretary was much impressed, through a visit to this College in the year 1882, by the importance of Physical Training for the Blind. Up to that time little attention had been paid to drill and gymnastics among them, and there were no gymnasia in the provinces. It was determined to erect one at Nottingham similar to that then in use at the Royal Normal College. This was accomplished by means of a Special Fund in 1883, and ever since regular gymnastic exercises have been maintained, greatly to the benefit of the pupils. In consequence of their limitations in other ways such exercises must be regarded as of even greater importance to the blind than to the sighted.

Swimming classes for both blind youths and blind girls were commenced about this period, and permission was given to use the Corporation Baths. These classes have been kept up ever since, so far as it has been practicable, and recently public swimming competitions have been held, provoking much emulation and interest.

For some years it had been earnestly desired to establish a Lending Library of books for the Blind at the Institution, but no funds could be devoted to this useful purpose. An appeal was therefore made to the Corporation of Nottingham to form such a Library in connection with the Public Free Library at the University College, and in 1886 this idea became an accomplished fact. The Library was opened with a collection of 230 volumes, and it is believed that it was one of the first, if not actually the first, of the Libraries for the Blind in connection with the Municipalities, which have since become so general.

At the present time it contains about 1,000 volumes.

In 1887 a fresh impetus was given to the musical studies of the pupils by the erection of a new organ, the fund for which was partly raised by a highly successful concert given by artistes from the Royal Normal College. The same year saw a new departure which had been for a long time in contemplation, viz., the establishment of a shop for the sale of goods in a more central position in the town than that in which the Institution

itself is situated. That the step was a wise one has been abundantly proved.

It will be recollected that the Institution, when erected in 1853, provided for the accommodation of only forty pupils, and though its aims and work had been since considerably extended, no addition to the premises had taken place for some thirty-five years. The demand for the provision of better accommodation had yearly become more insistent, and to meet this, in some degree, a wing of workshops was erected along the boys' playground on the Chaucer Street frontage. An adjoining house and grounds belonging to another charity were purchased, and important alterations and improvements to the existing buildings were carried out at a cost of about £4,000.

It thus became possible to remove entirely the brush and basket departments to the newly erected wing, and to utilise the space vacated for some of the indoor purposes of the Institution. These additions and alterations were completed in 1889.

In the year 1890 a Sick and Benefit Club was founded by the workers and managed by them with the assistance of the Secretary of the Institution. It secured to each blind member, for a small weekly payment, the sum of 10/- per week in case of illness, with other benefits. The Club, which for more than twenty years had been of the greatest service, was dissolved, and its funds, amounting to about £120, divided among its members, on the passing of the National Insurance Act.

The year 1891 saw the retirement on a pension of the old schoolmaster, Mr. Thomas Parr, after a period of forty-nine years' conscientious service, and a sighted schoolmaster, trained in more modern methods, was appointed in his stead.

It has been stated that the Institution was established on a humble scale in 1843. The year 1893 was thus its Jubilee. Much progress had been made during the fifty years of its existence, but still greater events were impending. The Jubilee was signalised by the establishment of a system of assisting and superintending the pupils who left after completing their training, somewhat on the lines of that known as the "Saxon System." This is now a regularised and important part of the Institution's

work, and is known as the "Old Pupils' Scheme." A fund of upwards of £3,000 was set apart for the purpose, of which £1,000 was contributed by the late Mrs. Seely, who took a warm interest in the blind. The income has been devoted to assisting old pupils at the commencement of their career, and from time to time by grants for business purposes, and the scheme has been of untold benefit to many who have passed through the Institution. Upwards of £2,000 has been expended in grants to old pupils in this manner.

In addition to this permanent method of marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Institution, the pupils and workers were taken to the seaside during the summer. This seaside outing has become quite a custom, for every year since, with one exception, the whole of those connected with the Institution have had a most enjoyable day at Sutton-on-Sea on the Lincolnshire coast, and this excursion is looked upon as the event of the year. A fund called the "Thousand Shillings Fund" has been set up each year of late to discharge the necessary cost of this holiday, and also to send those needing a change for a more extended period to the Southport Home of Rest or into the country.

The Report of the Royal Commission on the Blind, issued in 1889, and the subsequent representations made to the Government on the subject, led to the passing of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf) Act in 1893. This Measure came into operation on 1st January, 1894, and was destined to have far-reaching effects upon the Midland Institution. After much anxious consultation and enquiry, the Committee applied for certification, as they believed it would be for the benefit of the Institution as well as for the good of the Blind generally, and decided to endeavour to carry out the requirements which the Act imposed.

The same period saw the introduction of pianoforte tuning, and this was followed in 1895 by the addition of typewriting as a means of training and employing the Blind. The Edison Bell Phonograph was first used for dictation, but was soon superseded by a system of Braille shorthand. Great success has been

attained by the typewriting department, and a number of intelligent and well trained typists are now filling lucrative posts.

The Act of 1893 soon led to such an increase in the number of new scholars that the question of accommodation became a very pressing one. Larger and more numerous class-rooms and recreation rooms and improved sleeping accommodation for the children were called for, to say nothing of better and more healthy workshops, those then in use having become altogether inadequate for the trade carried on.

Only one of two courses appeared open, either to erect a fresh block of suitable school and industrial buildings on another site, and dispose of the present building, or to give up the work for the blind under sixteen years of age, and to convert the Institution into a Technical Training Establishment for those over sixteen. The Committee felt that if it were possible to obtain funds wherewith to erect and equip a thoroughly efficient and up-to-date Institution elsewhere that alternative was the better one, but the endowment funds available were quite insufficient for the purpose, and exhaustive enquiries forced them to the conclusion that any appeal to the public for funds with this object would be unsuccessful. It was, therefore, determined, at a meeting of the Governors held in February, 1901, to close the School and put an end to indoor residence at the end of the following June, and thenceforth to cease to carry on the Institution on a certificated basis. Regrettable though it was that a branch of work which had been in active existence for fifty-eight years should be relinquished, it was felt that the young Blind would suffer no loss, as the Act assured their education, while the Committee were left free to concentrate their attention upon the training of the Blind after sixteen, whom the School Authorities did not touch. The Scholastic Department was, therefore, abandoned at the end of the summer term, and the children were dismissed after a round of festivities, and were drafted to other Elementary Institutions. Boarding houses were established for the youths under the general supervision and semi-control of the Institution Authorities, and the girls were maintained in a home under a matron and subject

to the direct management of the Institution Authorities.

In bringing about such a great change in the Institution there was every anxiety to give up as little of its previous work as possible, and it was accordingly determined that its future operations should be limited to not merely industrial training, but that it should seek to give efficient instruction to those over sixteen in all matters of education and physical culture. With this view the music and pianoforte tuning departments were still kept on foot, as was also the choir, while physical training, gymnastics and drill, and evening continuation schools, in which cookery classes were included, were likewise retained.

At the same time a new industry for the Blind, that of hand loom weaving, was added. The Institution was indebted for this to that well-known benefactor, the late Mr. William Harris, who presented the first loom. Very beautiful and pleasing articles can be made by blind girls in this work, but the difficulty is to obtain such a sale for these hand-made goods as to ensure continuous employment. Be this as it may, the Committee can look back with pride and satisfaction to what has been accomplished in this branch of industry and to the part they have played in assisting other Institutions to establish it.

The trade of the Institution had by this time also much increased, and a comprehensive scheme for the provision of new workshops and for a complete remodelling of the existing buildings was taken in hand. The architect was Mr. H. Gill, of Nottingham, and various additions and improvements were ultimately carried out at a cost of upwards of £12,000. Commodious, light and airy workshops, constructed on the most approved principle, with fire resisting floors, a new concert hall, new gymnasium, and men's and women's dining rooms were built, and not the least of the improvements was the provision of a spacious roof garden over the new workshops. A complete system of heating by means of low pressure steam and electric lighting was installed throughout both old and new buildings.

It is satisfactory to state that the cost of all these improvements, including the erection a few years later of a Boarding House for the girls at a further outlay of £3,000 has now been

entirely discharged, and that the whole Institution is free from debt. Generous donations from friends of the Blind, together with legacies and a liberal grant from Gardner's Trust, have brought about this happy result. To this latter Charity the Institution is much indebted for its help in this and other ways and for the scholarships and other allowances which it provides, and to which so many people owe their industrial training.

It is needless to say that these conditions have brought about a vast improvement in the carrying on of the Institution, and in the well-being of the workers. An electric hoist serves the various floors of the new workshops. The different machines in the mat department are driven by electric motor, and in the brush department the boring lathes, to which a band saw, sand papering machine, etc., have recently been added, are driven by the same power.

A woodwork section was added in 1904, and all the youths have daily practice in this class of work and in the use of tools under the supervision of an expert practical teacher. The use of the hand and the training of the touch are essentials in the industrial education of the Blind, and practice in woodwork contributes much to this end.

In the year 1905 must be recorded the loss the Institution sustained through the death of Mr. W. G. Taylor, who succeeded Mr. Houseley as teacher of music, who for a period of seventeen years worked with unvarying kindness and devotion, gaining the respect and esteem of all who knew him. A large number of pupils who passed through his hands, have done credit to themselves at Trinity College and in other examinations, and many are now occupying important posts as organists and music teachers.

In the year 1905 an application was made to the Board of Education for recognition as a Technical School, and this was eventually successful, a capitation grant being received for the year 1905-6. The Institution was the first to be so recognised, and may be said to be the originator of the suggestion of Government grants towards technical instruction for the Blind.

No history of this Institution would be complete without

mention of Dr. Charles Bell Taylor, who was for many years one of its hon. oculists, and whose fame as an operator was world wide. He passed away in 1909.

The trade of bedding and mattress-making was added in 1910, and that of the repairing of boots and shoes followed somewhat later. Instruction in both these trades is being continued with no little measure of success.

Early in the year 1911 the Committee had under consideration the question of improving the position of the workers in the different trade departments, and after a very careful and lengthy investigation of the subject from all points of view, they framed a scheme by which the wages of each blind worker are augmented by a weekly sum derived from the charitable sources of the Institution. This weekly sum bears a certain relation to the amount earned. The Trade Union rates, as has been the case for many years past, form the minimum basis of wage calculation. The augmentation varies from 1/- per week in the case of the higher paid workers, to as much as 7/6 per week in that of the less-skilled. It is needless to say that this addition to their earnings has proved of great help to the workers. They are also happy in the fact that the Institution bears the whole cost of the National Insurance, paying not only the employer's portion, but that ordinarily paid by the worker as well.

In November, 1911, His Majesty King George V. honoured the Institution by becoming Patron, and in January, 1912, His Majesty further signified his approval of its work by granting it permission to use the title of "Royal," so that it is now known as "The Royal Midland Institution for the Blind." At the same time Her Majesty Queen Mary was graciously pleased to become Patroness.

As previously stated the Institution has since 1901 been devoted entirely to dealing with the Blind after the age of sixteen, and the Board of Education signified their approval of its work in a lengthy Report published in 1912, which concluded with the words:—

"There can be no doubt that the Institution is making a telling effort to solve the problem of the adolescent and adult



THE LATE ALBERT B. NORWOOD, M.A.

blind by measures which aim at judicious and firm discipline and order inside the walls of the Institution, a high educational ideal, and a practical outlook upon life beyond the stage of training."

In the spring of 1913 a successful Exhibition of girls' work was held with the view of making the industries practised by them better known. There was a large display of tweeds for suitings and dress materials of the most beautiful and attractive kind, as well as household towelling and other fabrics, and knitted hosiery goods.

Several deaf-blind persons have recently come under the care of the Institution, and much interest has been taken in collaboration with Lady Algernon Percy. An extended trial has been given to an invention by her of an adaptation of the Morse Code. It is proving eminently useful, and will lighten in some degree the burden of the isolation under which the deaf-blind must inevitably suffer.

In concluding this brief and imperfect account of the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind during the seventy-two years of its history, the writer is happy to record his confident belief in the continuous and steady progress of the work from the day when the blind were first called together in humble faith by those devoted men and women by whom the Institution was established, down to the present time, progress never perhaps more notable than now, and there seems no reason to regret, but rather grounds for rejoicing at the step taken some fourteen years ago in converting the Institution into a purely industrial and technical one. However that may be, it earnestly seeks to give the very best opportunities in life to the rising generation of the young blind and the many testimonies received from pupils who have severed their connection with the Institution, as well as from workers in the cause well qualified to judge, may be taken as some proof that its work is not without success.

IN MEMORIAM.

ALBERT BURTON NORWOOD.

Everyone concerned in work for the Blind will learn with the utmost regret of the death of Mr. A. B. Norwood, M.A., Principal of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, York, on February 13th.

A painful shock was caused a few weeks ago when it became known that he had been suddenly stricken with paralysis. There was deep anxiety amongst his many friends, and when the illness was so soon followed by his decease, the greatest sorrow was felt by all those who knew him.

Little hope was entertained of Mr. Norwood's recovery from the first. After a few days he gradually became unconscious, and passed away in that state on Saturday morning, February 13th, after only ten days' illness.

It is a pathetic circumstance indeed that only in the last number of *The Blind*, which was issued in January, appeared an obituary notice written by Mr. Norwood, of Mr. F. J. Munby, the Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire School, whose death occurred in December, and now Mr. Norwood himself has gone to his rest. Truly the Yorkshire School for the Blind has suffered an overwhelming blow in the removal of its two great pillars, and heartfelt sympathy will go out from everyone who knew them with those who are left behind in their double loss.

Mr. Norwood was born at Preston on December 28th, 1855. Early showing scholarly inclinations he was trained for the teaching profession. Upon completion of his education locally he graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, and there he obtained his degree of Master of Arts. After three years and a-half spent as resident Master at Whalley Grammar School in Lancashire he went to York, now more than thirty years ago, to fill a similar position at St. Olave's School, afterwards becoming joint Headmaster of that School with the Rev. H. A. Wilson, and he was connected with the School for over eighteen years. It was owing to this close personal association with Mr. Wilson that it was decided that Mr. Norwood's last resting place should be at Rufforth, a village five miles from York, and he sleeps beside his former partner in the churchyard at Rufforth, of which parish the late Rev. H. A. Wilson was for many years Vicar, and who only died in August last. "They worked together, and they shall rest together."

Mr. Norwood was appointed to the School for the Blind in July, 1901, and it is not too much to say that the good work

done there by him in these thirteen and a-half years cannot be over-estimated.

He worthily upheld the traditions and continued the good work carried on by his predecessor, the late Mr. Buckle, but he accomplished far more than this. He always took the greatest interest in the work of the School which he served with so much devotion, and it may be said with truth that its progress and success were very largely due to his initiative and his kindly care. His anxious thought was ever directed to the advancement and the well-being of those—teachers and pupils alike—under his charge, and his great ambition was that his School should be one of the very best in the country.

Perhaps Mr. Norwood's greatest characteristic was his unbounded generosity—in his judgment of others, in seeking to relieve distress, and in giving pleasure. He had a strong sense of humour, and he delighted in harmless raillery and in playful joke. He was a very keen sportsman, and took an active interest in sport in all its forms, particularly in cricket and football, and he was able to recollect and describe the exploits of many famous players of the past. He was at one time a cricketer himself of no mean repute, having played for the Whalley, the S. Manchester and also the York Clubs. He was a fine batsman, and made many centuries for these Clubs. He was likewise a good fast bowler, and it was unhappily whilst bowling on one occasion that he strained himself internally, which incapacitated him from being able to take part in sports again, but he loved the game right to the end. He could be so "one" with the elder boys at his School and enthusiastic with them on the latest results, and at the same time he was a thoroughly natural playmate with the little girls and boys, delighting them with his keenness in joining in their games with them.

Mr. Norwood was a man of robust character, a Christian and a gentleman. He was large-hearted, of intense human sympathies, and most generous impulses, and a staunch and true friend. He was no theologian, but he had a simple and childlike faith in his God; a true patriot and a firm believer in his King and his country. He had no admiration for the

demagogue ; he firmly believed in *doing*, and he often waxed wroth against the mere talkers.

It may be mentioned that another of Mr. Norwood's characteristics was his interest in music. He was a keen and able musician himself, and for many years was one of the leading members of the York Musical Society, and at one time its Hon. Secretary. He was a Sidesman of St. Olave's Church for seven years and one of the Churchwardens from 1905 until his death.

Apart from the duties of his own School Mr. Norwood had a large share in general work for the Blind. He attended the Congrès International pour l'Amélioration du sort des Aveugles at Brussels in company with the writer in 1902, soon after his appointment to the York School, and he took a leading part in all the Conferences held in this country since that year. Though not a frequent speaker, he was invariably listened to with great interest and respect.

Together with the writer he paid a visit of enquiry in the year 1906, to a large number of continental Institutions, travelling extensively in the countries of Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Austria. He was a member of the Executive of the North of England Union of Institutions and Societies for the Blind, and of the College of Teachers of the Blind. He was likewise a member of the various Conference Committees and of the National Committee for the employment of the Blind.

Mr. Norwood's removal is a heavy loss to the cause of the Blind, and his place, especially as Principal of his own school, will be, indeed, difficult to fill.

It is hard to realise that we have lost him, that he will never again join our Councils, and that we shall no more see that broad well-built figure, that kindly humorous face, nor hear that cheery voice ever breathing a spirit of strong affection for those dearest to him, a spirit of tolerance and kindness for his fellow men.

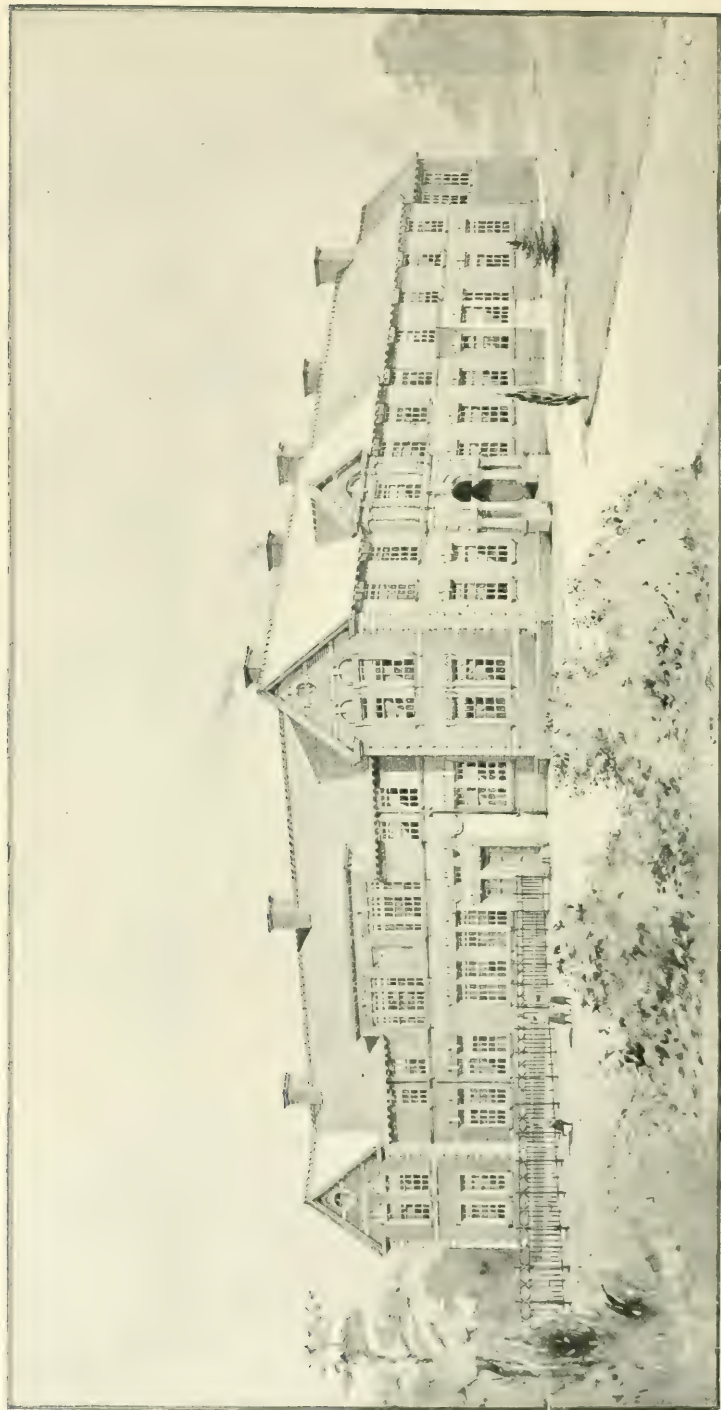
The world is the poorer for the passing of Albert Burton Norwood.

Royal Midland Institution for the Blind,
Nottingham.

25th March, 1915.

H. W. P. PINE.





THE QUEEN ALEXANDRA KINDERGARTEN FOR THE BLIND, HARBORNE.

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 71.

JULY 20TH, 1915.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and September of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. In the January number for 1913, par. 8, we reported that Wilfrid Kershaw had passed the Licentiate Examination of the Royal Academy of Music in pianoforte playing in Class A, and only in the October number of last year, par. 6, that he had gained the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, and had carried off the "Turpin Prize," and now, alas! we have to record the death of this brilliant young musician. He had been ill for some time, and recently had become quite deaf, which must have been a very severe trial to him, as a professional musician.

2. The Rev. C. F. Hardy, M.A., who has been Principal of the Royal School of Industry for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, for several years, has been appointed Principal of the Yorkshire School for the Blind at York, in the room of the late Mr. Norwood.

3. The Rev. R. V. Bainton, who last year took his B.A. degree at Durham with honours in classics was ordained on Trinity Sunday to the curacy of St. Giles, Durham.

4. Mr. B. A. Ridge, of Peterhouse, Cambridge, has passed both parts of the special examination in History (the latter part with a first class) and has also taken his B.A. degree.

5. Mr. H. Spencer, of Jesus College, Oxford, has graduated with second class in *Litteris Humanioribus*.

6. Mr. J. L. Sowden, of Peterhouse, Cambridge, has taken a first class in the first part of the History special examination for the B.A. degree. He was the only one from his College in this class, and there were only two others in the University.

7. Mr. M. Dodd, of Peterhouse, Cambridge, and formerly of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, has passed in Class 3, Part 1, in the Law Tripos.

8. On Monday, May 31st, at the annual meeting of the North London Homes for the Blind, many touching and well deserved tributes were paid to the Rev. and Mrs. Henry Bright on their retirement, after thirty-five years, as Superintendents of the Homes which they founded. They will continue to occupy their rooms in the Home, and thus be able to give help and guidance when required. Since April 22nd, 1880, when the Homes were founded, 527 inmates have been admitted, £100,000 have been raised, eight freehold houses have been purchased, the Jubilee Hall built, the whole property costing about £16,000. The Rev. Albert Woodward has been appointed Superintendent, and Miss Bishop, who has assisted Mrs. Bright for several years, Assistant Superintendent and Matron. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Bright every happiness in their well-earned repose.

9. The Examinations of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships tenable at the Royal Normal College, are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates should apply for forms of application and

return them not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

10. The Secretary of the National Library for the Blind, 125, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, would be glad to hear of Societies or individuals requiring odd volumes of the Bible in Braille and Moon, as she has several copies, mainly second-hand, to give away. She has also a few old volumes of fiction.

11. A sixth edition (revised) of 2,000 copies of the pamphlet "Information with regard to Institutions, Societies and Classes for the Blind in the United Kingdom," by Mr. H. J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, is now ready, price 3d., by post 4½d.

12. In the last number of *The Blind*, paragraph 18, we wish to make three corrections in the list of books which was forwarded to us, to be provided by the Carnegie Trust to the National Lending Library for the Blind, viz., "The Rivals" and "Tom Sawyer" should be deleted, and "Pizarro" inserted.

13. The following books have been added to the Free Public Library, Oxford:—Pliny "Selected Letters," Aristophanes "Birds" with explanatory notes, Thucydides Book 4, Demosthenes "Crown" and "Callicles," Private Orations, Aeschylus "Seven Against Thebes," Text with Select Satires of Juvenal. Sophocles "Philoctetes," Lucan "Pharsalia," Livy Book 1, Longinus "On the Sublime."

14. The special article for our next number (October) will be on the Royal Institution for the Blind, Bradford, by Mr. Miles Priestley, Manager and Secretary.

15. The Committee appointed to organise the next Conference on the Blind have decided that as no useful purpose

will be served by holding meetings at the present time, the organisation shall remain in abeyance until a likelihood of the termination of the present war is more clearly seen.

16. On June 28th a Conference was held on the invitation of the Council of the National Institute for the Blind to consider the question of embossing suitable books of an educational character for the use of the Blind. The Conference began at 11 a.m., and continued until nearly 5 p.m. with a short adjournment for lunch, kindly provided by the Council in their new spacious buildings. Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S., presided at the Conference, which was attended by representatives of several of the chief educational Institutions, and also by Dr. Wilson and Dr. Eichholz, of the Board of Education.

After Mr. Taylor had welcomed those present, and had stated that the Council of the National Institute for the Blind were most anxious to do their best to meet the requirements of all, and after Mr. C. A. Pearson and Dr. Ranger had said a few words, Dr. Eichholz referred to the origin of the meeting which, he said, was due to Mr. C. A. Pearson approaching the President of the Board of Education for his co-operation, and that he had appointed two of his officers to confer with the Council of the National Institute. Dr. Eichholz strongly advocated the higher education of blind girls, and all his remarks were most interesting and to the point. There was a long agenda paper, including among other items (1) reading books for class work; (2) arithmetic and Taylor's frame; (3) maps and diagrams; (4) apparatus. There was a good discussion on most of the points, and many valuable suggestions were made, and in order to consider them, the Conference appointed the following Sub-Committee to draw up a report to present to the Conference which will be summoned for another meeting:—Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Mr. J. M. Ritchie, Mr. G. C. Bown, Mr. George Sampson, Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, Miss Lily Bell, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. John W. Samuel, Mr. H. M. Taylor, and Mr. C. Arthur Pearson.

The Conference was very helpful, and after it was over, those who wished were taken over the new premises and were shewn the printing and other machines at work.

17. When we recommend to our readers (as we do most heartily) "A Beacon for the Blind," by Miss Winifred Holt, the majority will feel that we are recommending the work of a friend, and not the usual unknown "author." It is the life of Henry Fawcett, the blind Postmaster-General, and " . . . the author has proved herself worthy of the subject. It is a pleasure to read a work inspired by so much devotion, so clearly expressed, and so successful in presenting the man that called it into being in his habit as he lived. Fawcett strove in a world of statesmen; his ideas were in advance of his time, but his high qualities of heart and brain gained a measure of acceptance for them even in hostile circles. He takes rank with John Bright and John Stuart Mill; the integrity of his public and private life, his high vision, his dauntless courage, proclaim a man who helped to make the Victorian era distinguished . . . the author of this fascinating study of his career writes as though she had felt to the full the beauty of his life and the value of his labours. In her pages Henry Fawcett, with the soul of a hero and the spirits of a boy, seems to live again, and one can hardly avoid the thought that England, perhaps the British Empire, is still the poorer for his loss. Blinded as he entered manhood, taken away in his prime, he crowded memorable achievement into a few breathless years. . . . He was a just, outspoken, iron-willed, blind man risen from among the people to build an enduring monument out of high ideals, and worthy deeds." The above is quoted from the *Illustrated London News* of June 12th, and justly expresses the aim and achievement of the book. That such a man as Henry Fawcett lived and worked among us is, and must ever be, a proud memory to the nation from which he sprang, and very especially must it be so to those who, like him, are working with "knowledge at one entrance quite shut out," and who know only too well the added strain on every faculty involved. Fawcett struggled nobly and overcame nobly,

and we owe Miss Holt warm thanks for her life-like presentment of one who was indeed a beacon among men for all that a man should be.

18. A meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the office of Gardner's Trust on June 12th, when there were present Miss Garaway, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. G. M. Campbell, W. H. Illingworth, A. P. Pearson, H. W. P. Pine, J. M. Ritchie, H. Stainsby, W. H. Thurman, and H. J. Wilson in the chair.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. B. P. Jones and W. M. Stone.

The report of the examiners on the candidates at the recent examination was read, and the best thanks of the Committee were presented to the examiners and moderator for their valuable services rendered, and also to the Committee of the School for the Blind at Sheffield, and to Mr. and Mrs. Maddocks, the Superintendent and his wife. The following were appointed examiners for 1916, viz., Miss Garaway, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. A. P. Pearson, J. M. Ritchie, and W. M. Stone, and Mr. W. H. Illingworth was appointed moderator.

It was decided that the next examination should be held in London, on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 6th and 7th, 1916. The syllabus for next year's examination was discussed and agreed to.

A Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the question of the training of teachers.

The certificates to be given to the successful candidates at the last examination, whose names are given below, were signed and sealed, and also the certificates granted to certain teachers without examination, whose names are also given.

The result of the examination held on May 18th and 19th, at the Sheffield School for the Blind, by kind permission of the Committee, was as follows:—

NAMES.	HONOURS.
Cosslett, Edward Thomas	Châir Caning.
Hunter, Janet	
Lye, Laura Emma	Arithmetic.
Pennington, Violet D.	Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic.
Shaw, Charlie	Practice of Teaching, Theory, of Education, Physical Train- ing and Recreation.
Shaw, Mildred Ellen	
Wiley, Christine	Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille.

Including the above seven names, 114 teachers have now taken the College certificate.

The following is the list of those who have been teachers in schools for the Blind for over ten years and have been granted special certificates by the College without examination with the knowledge and approval of the Board of Education. No further certificates of this nature will be granted :—

Adams, Miss Agnes Smith	Hughes, Miss Elizabeth A.
Barker, Miss Helena Bertha	Kay, Miss Fanny
Barrett, John	Law, Miss Blythe M.
Bartlett, Miss A. E.	Littlewood, Walter
Deighton, Miss Emily H.	McCarthy, Miss Catherine
Delph, Miss Harriett	Percival, Miss Louisa A.
Dickson, Miss Isabella W.	Richmond, Mrs. Mary J.
Dickie, George	Story, A. J.
Ellis, Miss K. M.	Thomas, Miss Elizabeth
Frayling, Charles H.	Thomson, Miss Mary
Girdwood, Miss Catherine V.	Walker, G. Irons
Grimmett, Mrs. E.	Weaver, Miss M.
Hawes, Miss Harriett M.	Whitehouse, Miss Emily
Holden, Miss L.	Wiley, Miss Ellen E.
Howard, Miss Mary	Windle, Miss R. J.

19. During the year 1914 a new workroom has been built for the use of the female pupils of the Norwich Institution for

the Blind, and a new saleroom is in course of erection on the ground in the front of the present one, bringing it in a line with the street. This will be more convenient to the public who purchase the goods, and the Committee feel that it will warrant the expenditure by largely increasing the sales, and thus giving more work to the Blind, who always find it most difficult to obtain employment. The cost of the new addition amounts to £569, exclusive of fittings and heating apparatus.

20. A long and detailed account of the new buildings for the Royal Institution for the Blind, South Australia, and of the laying of the foundation stone on January 23rd, is given in *Morning*, the Australian Braille Magazine. Sir Samuel Way, Chief Justice, presided at the meeting, and eulogised the work accomplished by Mr. Hendry, who has been the manager of the Institution since its foundation in 1884. The front building will be of Elizabethan style, the basket workroom will be 80ft. by 40ft., the matroom 46ft. by 33ft., and the large Hall 66ft. by 30ft. and 21ft. high, approached from the street by a wide flight of steps and porch. At the rear of the Factory there will be a machinery shop, teasing room, mattress shop, &c., and the electric light will be installed throughout. The contract price for the work, which had to be completed by June 30th, is £8,877. There will be an additional cost of £1,000 for furnishing, &c.

21. The new residential school for blind children, established by the Bradford Education Committee, was opened by Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, on Tuesday, July 6th.

In the course of the morning he visited the four departments of the Royal Institution for the Blind.

The Odsal School for the Blind occupies a site almost at the junction of the Huddersfield and Cleckheaton roads. It consists of two houses which, together with a new wing, have been adapted to the purposes of a residential school to accommodate forty children—twenty girls and twenty boys. On the ground floor is the scholars' dining hall and rooms for the

teaching and domestic staffs. In the new wing are four classrooms. The dormitories occupy the second floor, and are equipped with fire escape staircases. Outbuildings have been converted into a manual instruction room and a serviceable gymnasium. One of the finest features of the school is its beautiful setting in fine extensive grounds.

Alderman Warburton, who presided over the opening ceremony, said "It was sad that the need should exist for institutions of such a character, and hardly any sacrifice that could be made was too great if it served to help the blind to bear the unfortunate burden that had come into their lives.

"The Odsal School which they were opening that day was the result of a great struggle, and some of those who looked back over the last few years were really glad that something had been achieved after all the struggles. Plans had been prepared for no less than four different schemes to provide a residential school for the blind, and the Education Committee had fought for the approval of all four. Unfortunately they found themselves in such a position that they could not force one of the four to completion, and in desperation, when the estate came into the market they bought it. Whether they were justified in that step or not he thought they could plead that they were at least justified now in that they had at last established a residential school. Extensions might have to be made, but the work of extension would be easier than that of creating the institution. They expected that the cost would be from £8,000 to £9,000. They had actually provided the site and buildings for the sum of £8,556, and had not yet exceeded their borrowing powers."

The Yorkshire Observer states that "Mr. C. Arthur Pearson heartily congratulated the Education Committee on their enterprise." He said "it was always wise to do things that lead to the greater happiness of the community. From personal experience and from experience gathered during the examination of witnesses before the Departmental Committee on the Blind, of which he was a member, he was quite firmly convinced that one of the most important needs for the betterment of the condition of the Blind was the universal establishment of

residential schools. For some months he had been busy with others in trying to persuade the local authorities of Cardiff to establish a residential school for the blind, and he hoped the example which Bradford was now setting would result in another step being taken towards the general establishment of such schools.

"A very important development in connection with the school was the arrangement made to ensure the future of the children. It was far too common to educate blind children to a point—often to a point of proficiency that surprised people not familiar with the work of blind folk—and then to leave them to drift back into the world to find there was no place for the exercise of the talents and qualifications they had acquired. He understood, however, that the Bradford scheme provided that when the children finished their school course they should be drafted into the admirable Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind—which ranked as high as any in the country—and there trained in useful pursuits until they reached the age of 21, from which time they would be admitted to the benefits of the institution and assisted to earn money for themselves. That was an example which he hoped would be followed widely throughout the kingdom. It was the first step that had been taken in this direction, and it was a step of the utmost importance.

"Proceeding, Mr. Pearson praised the attempts that had been made to create a cheerful atmosphere and to beautify and decorate the school. People, he said, were apt to imagine that it did not matter to the blind how dim and dismal the aspect of their surroundings might be. It mattered a very great deal; surroundings were of more importance to blind people and had more effect upon their minds and lives than was the case with regard to people who could see. Blind people could notice a great deal more than those who possessed sight could conceive, and their lives assumed a different aspect by reason of bright and cheerful surroundings.

"The Chairman had alluded to the sadness of an institution such as that. While recognising the kindness of the remark, he would like to correct Alderman Warburton. Happiness was the

keynote of the life of the blind in such institutions as that and the institution he had helped to establish in London for soldiers blinded at the front. It might be that when one had something to overcome, which one had to hit out hard against, one hit out so hard that one went over to the other side, as it were, and automatically turned sadness into joy. Then, again, people were always so kind to the blind.

"Before closing, Mr. Pearson expressed a hope that the Chairman would be able to persuade the Finance Committee to provide hostels for the children of the school who were passed on to be educated at the Royal Institution for the Blind; hostels where they could still live together as friends, and in which the happy home side of their school life might be continued while they were being trained at the Blind Institution.

"Mr. Guy M. Campbell (Principal of the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind) congratulated Bradford on taking the Blind out of the workhouses and putting them in places where they could be looked after like human beings. He contended that residential schools for the Blind were preferable to day schools, because they ensured a longer period of instruction, constant supervision, more opportunities for correcting peculiarities, better opportunities for physical training, uniform dietary, constant medical treatment, libraries, organised games, and moral training.

"A hearty vote of thanks to the speakers was passed, on the motion of Mr. J. A. Guy, seconded by Mr. F. Priestman; and a similar compliment was paid to the Chairman, on the motion of Mr. Priestman, seconded by Mr. E. J. Smith."

THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The Annual General Meeting of the Union of Unions for the Blind was held at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W., on 14th May, at 11 a.m.

The chair was taken by Mr. Wilson, and there were present

Miss Comber, Miss Emery, Mrs. Goodhart, Miss Merivale, Miss B. Taylor, Miss Whitbread, Rev. Canon Binney, Councillor Barker, Colonel Jolly, Rev. S. F. Harris, Mr. Pine, Mr. Thurman, Miss Bennett, and Mr. Guy Campbell.

The Rev. C. E. Bolam wrote regretting his inability to be present owing to military duties.

The Chairman heartily welcomed Canon Binney and Colonel Jolly to the meeting, and both gentlemen expressed thanks.

The morning session was held specially to consider suggestions and difficulties from Hon. and Organising Secretaries.

A discussion ensued on the difficulties of disposing of goods made by scattered workers, and many valuable suggestions were made and several new industries were mentioned. After discussions on various other matters, Mrs. Goodhart gave an interesting account of the Berkshire branch of the Union, and said that she had found the county scheme work well, and recommended its use wherever possible.

The introductory remarks for the annual report of the Union of Unions for 1914 were read and amended.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.30 p.m., and resumed the deliberations at 2.30 p.m., when there were present from the *Eastern Union*. Miss Emery and Miss Whitbread.

Metropolitan Union. Miss Bennett, Miss B. Taylor, Mr. Guy Campbell, and Mr. H. J. Wilson.

Midland Union. Miss Merivale, Mr. Pine, and Mr. Thurman.

North of England Union. Miss Heywood, Councillor Barker, Mr. Booth, and Colonel Jolly.

North West Union. Miss Comber and Canon Binney.

South West Union. Mrs. Vere Stead and Rev. S. F. Harris.

The Chairman extended a hearty welcome to Canon Binney, Mr. Booth, and Colonel Jolly, which was acknowledged.

On the motion of Colonel Jolly, seconded by Miss B. Taylor, Mr. Wilson was unanimously re-elected Chairman.

In thanking the members for re-electing him, the Chairman referred to the various events that had happened since the last

Annual Meeting, and to the losses which had befallen the various Unions in the deaths of Sir Francis Campbell, the Venerable Archdeacon Barber, Mr. Kidd, Miss Moon, Mr. Munby, Mr. Norwood, Alderman Royle, and Mr. Smithers.

Miss B. Taylor and Mr. G. Campbell were unanimously re-elected Hon. Secretaries on the motion of Mr. Pine and seconded by Mr. Thurman, and Mr. Stuart Johnson, Hon. Treasurer, on the motion of Mr. Pine and seconded by Councillor Barker.

It was urged that Secretaries of Unions should get in touch with Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, and that there should be a mutual exchange of names of blinded sailors and soldiers, viz., those notified to the Secretaries, who could be sent on to St. Dunstan's, and similar notification to the Secretaries of the various Unions from St. Dunstan's of those who were leaving the Hostel. It was decided to have a special form printed for this purpose.

Miss Heywood said that there were still many of the Blind that were unknown to the Unions, and that every effort should be made to register them, and that free advice should be given at the various headquarters of the different Unions. She also urged an increase in the number of visitors willing to seek out and look after the Blind.

On the motion of the Chairman it was agreed to co-opt three blind people on the Executive Council. The names submitted, if willing to serve, were:—Miss Jocelyn Ffoukes, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Siddall, who subsequently accepted the invitation.

Many important questions were discussed, including the employment of blind organising secretaries, blind collectors, &c., &c.

Metropolitan Union. The Annual General Meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union was held at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, on March 27th, when there were present Mr. H. J. Wilson in the chair, Miss E. Bainbrigge, Miss Harris Browne, Miss Burnett, Miss Charnock, Mrs. Goodhart, Miss B. Taylor, Miss B. Stewart,

Sir John Brickwood, Mr. Evans, Mr. Frost, Mr. Lempriere, Dr. Ranger, Rev. Henry Bright, Rev. A. Woodward, Mrs. H. J. Wilson, Miss Everett, Captain Agnew, Mr. Mulley, Rev. Barton Mills, Miss Bennett, and Mr. Guy Campbell.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were reported on behalf of Miss E. W. Austen, Miss Burns, Mr. Leonard Creasy, Mr. J. T. Edmonds, Mrs. Hewlett Hobbs, Mrs. Le Mesurier, Miss Martin, Miss May, Miss Meiklejohn, Mr. Morphey, Miss Parker, Mr. E. C. Price, Mr. H. Stainsby, Mrs. Whishaw, Miss Wilcox, and others.

Mr. Wilson was elected Chairman for 1915-16, on the motion of Mr. Lempriere, seconded by Dr. Ranger; Mr. Stuart Johnson, Hon. Treasurer, on the motion of the Rev. Barton Mills, seconded by Miss E. Bainbrigge; Mr. Guy Campbell, Hon. Secretary, on the motion of Dr. Ranger, seconded by Miss Harris Browne; Dr. Ranger, Hon. Solicitor, on the motion of Sir John Brickwood, seconded by Mrs. Goodhart; Mr. Lewis, Hon. Auditor, on the motion of Mr. Guy Campbell, seconded by Miss B. Taylor.

In returning thanks for his re-election, Mr. Wilson pointed out how eventful the past twelve months had been in the history of the work for the Blind. He referred to the opening of the National Institute for the Blind by their Majesties the King and Queen, the order issued by the Rt. Hon. J. Burns, making *Ophthalmia Neonatorum* compulsorily notifiable from April 1st, 1914, the holding of the International Conference of the Blind, with its remarkable exhibition of crafts and industries, organised by Mr. Stuart Johnson, the introduction of the Blind Aid Bill into the House of Commons, the increase of grant for blind children in certified schools from £5 5s. to £13, due principally to the efforts of Mr. Nelson of the Deaf and Dumb School, Manchester, supported by Mr. Story, of Stoke-on-Trent, and Mr. Illingworth, of Manchester, the appointment of a Departmental Committee to enquire into the existing condition of the Blind and report, the securing of a Hostel by Mr. C. Arthur Pearson and equipping it for the reception of soldiers and sailors

blinded in the war, the Carnegie Grant to the National Institute for the Blind, enabling it to produce in stereotyped Braille twenty-eight additional new books, and the grant of thirty copies of each of these books by the Carnegie Trustees to the National Lending Library for the Blind, the progress of the Metropolitan Union itself, and, lastly, the number of noted blind persons who had been claimed by death.

In accordance with Article 25 of the Deed of Incorporation, the following ladies and gentlemen retired :—Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mrs. Le Mesurier, Mr. Lempriere, Dr. Ranger, and Miss B. Taylor. On the motion of Mr. Guy Campbell, seconded by Miss Charnock, all were re-elected.

Sir John Brickwood moved the adoption of the report and balance-sheet for 1914. In the course of his remarks he drew attention to the fact that 500 names had been added to the register; that several new Hon. Representatives had been secured who were able to increase the help given to the Blind and so prevent them from becoming despairing and despondent. He emphasised the advisability of the teaching of reading, whether Moon or Braille, and that efforts should be made to secure pensions for old people, but in so doing to see that there was no overlapping. He thought the Council should consider themselves fortunate in being able to carry on the work on so small an expenditure. The Case Committee were doing excellent work, and he hoped that provincial branches would steadily increase in number. The making of grants for necessitous cases was gradually depleting capital, and efforts must be made to bring the work of the Union more to the attention of the public.

Mr. Frost, in seconding, said that though difficulties and disappointments had faced the Union they had been thoroughly grappled with, and the whole report breathed a spirit of zealous co-operation which augured well for the future of the Union. He was convinced that eventually there would be no blind person in the country left uncared for.

On the motion of Dr. Ranger, seconded by Mr. Lempriere, Miss B. Taylor, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Guy Campbell were re-elected delegates to the Union of Unions for the season 1915-16.

North of England Union. The annual meeting of the North of England Union of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind, was held at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, on Saturday, May 8th, at 2.30 p.m.

His Worship the Mayor of Salford presided, and in his opening address he welcomed the delegates to Manchester, and spoke warmly of the good work which is being carried on there for the Blind. He then called upon the Hon. Secretary, Miss Heywood, to read the Annual Report, from which the following extracts are made:—

“After the Annual Meeting (May 7th, 1914), Miss Sadgrove had much to arrange, and much correspondence with the Blind who wished to send exhibits to the Exhibition of ‘blind’ work in London, during the Conference week.

A map card was brought out, with names and addresses of local Secretaries, which has proved most useful, and many cases of blind people were looked up and seen to.

After the war broke out in August, there were large orders for wool work, which were distributed amongst the Blind. The programme of meetings, etc., arranged for the Autumn had to be abandoned, an entire change having been made by the War in the ordinary course of life.

Miss Sadgrove's work was further interrupted by the long illnesses of her parents, and by their deaths within a few weeks of each other, and then by the break down of her own health from the long continued strain.

The breaking of new ground has been hindered, it being almost impossible to start new Societies, and useless to try to hold public meetings.

The influence of persistent efforts quietly made, during this trying time, and the individual cases assisted in various ways, will be perhaps the best preparation for a more public crusade on behalf of the Blind, when peace is restored and life becomes normal once more. The hidden leaven will be secretly leavening the lump. . . .

The meeting of our Executive Committee on February 6th at the King's Manor House, York, was a singularly mournful

one. Mr. Munby, the honoured and beloved Chairman of the Union, had died, and Mr. Norwood was dangerously ill, and died shortly afterwards. Thus the Union was deprived of two leaders, both devoted to the cause of the Blind, and both mainstays of the Union. Such losses are irreparable, but it was felt that the best tribute of gratitude and reverence to the memory of these noble men, was to take up their work and carry it on vigorously. . . .

Only those who have lived amongst the Blind know the wonderful change which is brought in their lives when the firm strong hand of friendship is held out to them—not once, and then withdrawn—but constantly. Always ready, always helpful, always warmly sympathetic, and cheerily encouraging, a long strong clasp.

Even in time of war the Union must go on with one object in view, till every blind man, woman, and child in the North of England is befriended.

A good beginning has been made. Enthusiasm is catching, and through all this difficult time, even more than in times of peace, we will remember that our motto is ‘*Domine dirige nos.*’

Lt.-Colonel Jolly then read the statement of accounts. As Hon. Treasurer, which post he is resigning on being elected Chairman, on moving the adoption of the report and accounts, he referred in sympathetic words to the losses by death, sustained by the Union, and by Miss Sadgrove. The motion was seconded by Mr. Siddall, and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Robertson the following officers were elected for the year, viz.:—Chairman, Lt.-Colonel Jolly; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Tate; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Scott; and Hon. Secretary, Miss Heywood.

Mr. W. H. Illingworth then read a most interesting paper on “Gleanings from the London Conference.”

After the meeting there was a concert by blind pupils, an inspection of the Institution and its complete and varied workshops and schools, and finally of the Mary Ann Scott Memorial Home, where an excellent tea was enjoyed, and several speeches were made. Everyone passed a pleasant afternoon, and felt

grateful to the Board of Henshaw's Blind Asylum for the careful provision made for their enjoyment.

THE BIRMINGHAM ROYAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

By Mr. W. H. Thurman, General Superintendent and Secretary.

It was Mr. William Harrold, a Birmingham merchant, who first conceived the idea of establishing an Institution for the Blind in Birmingham. He started a scheme for the erection of a school, but, unfortunately, did not live to carry it out. Subsequently his only daughter, Miss Elizabeth Bache Harrold, and her great friend, Miss Mary Badger, came to the conclusion that a school should be opened in a modest way. A small house situated in Ruston Street (off Broad Street), was rented at about 5/- or 6/- per week, in 1846, and the valuable assistance of Mr. Thomas Goodman, of Edgbaston, in obtaining pupils was secured. This gentleman served from 1848 till the time of his death in 1874 as Treasurer, and for a portion of that period as Chairman. He was succeeded by Mr. Howard Lloyd, who still occupies the position.

The first pupil was John Dale, aged ten, the son of a tobacco pipe-maker living near Holloway Head, Birmingham, whose sight was lost through smallpox. Dale knew other blind children, and the school was started with seven scholars, who were taught to read books in Lucas' type. Public interest was aroused, and applications were received with a view to the admission of other blind children. This necessitated the removal of the school to Ryland Street, and before very long another transfer to 113, Broad Street, a private house of much larger dimensions, as the rental of £30 per annum will prove. It was then possible to admit seventeen pupils, of whom five were boarders. The school subjects taught were reading, music, geography (with the aid of relief maps), mental arithmetic, history, and the occupations of knitting, straw plaiting and basket-making. It is strange to relate that at the entrance a large board was exhibited, on which appeared the title of

"The Birmingham Institution for the Blind," although in the earliest Annual Reports the Charity appeared to be known as "The General Institution for the Blind" in accordance with the wishes expressed at the Annual Meeting held on Easter Monday, 1848.

The first Annual Report is inscribed as that of "The Institution for the Blind, No. 113, Broad Street, Birmingham, 1848." On the first page appears the names of the Governess, Miss Allerton; Matron, Mrs. King; Professor of Music, Mr. Munden; Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Goodman; Bankers, Messrs. Taylor and Lloyds (now Lloyds Bank, Ltd.). It consists of a small grey pamphlet containing sixteen pages, printed by J. H. Beilby, Temple Buildings, Birmingham, on Royal 32mo paper, and is without a cover. There is reference in this Report to the "cheerful liberality with which the Superintendent's appeal was responded to last year." It also includes a reference to an apparently incorrigible youth of seventeen, who was transferred to the Bristol Asylum, as it was thought desirable to place him under the care of a master. The accounts published in this Report give the total income as £252, and the expenditure £199. The subscriptions and donations amounted to £229, and the sale of goods which the blind made during the year realised £5. The salaries of the six teachers, including £26 for the Governess, totalled £65, and rent, food, washing, &c., cost £68.

There were thirteen influential patrons, including a Marquess, four Earls, two Bishops, two Lords, three Baronets, and a Dean. The first Hon. Chaplain was the Rev. George Lea, who served in such capacity from 1848 to 1883. He was also Chairman of the General Committee for many years during that period. On April 24th, 1848, a meeting was held at Dee's Royal Hotel (now "Ye Old Royal") in Temple Row, for the purpose of establishing the Institution as a public charity. Mr. James Taylor occupied the chair, and was elected the first President of the Institution. The first resolution adopted was "That a public Institution be formed in this town to be called the Birmingham Institution for the Blind." It was soon afterwards discovered that the premises at 113, Broad Street, were

inadequate, and another move was made, this time to Islington House, Broad Street, near Five Ways, Edgbaston, for which a rent was paid of £60 a year. The building was taken for a period of two years, and accommodated twenty-five scholars.

About this time a strong effort was made to collect sufficient funds for the erection of a suitable building in which to educate and train the young blind. This proved to be successful, for the second Annual Report states that £1,600 was obtained for the purpose. According to this Report the object of the Charity was "To instruct the blind in reading the Holy Scriptures; and at the same time, in some useful trade or calling by which they may be able to provide for their future livelihood."

In 1849 two acres of land were leased from Lord Calthorpe in Carpenter Road, Edgbaston, on which the present buildings were commenced. Immediately on the left in the entrance hall there is a marble tablet which reads as follows:—

"In grateful remembrance of the devoted labours of Elizabeth Bache Harrold and Mary Badger, who in 1848 first promoted the education of the Blind in Birmingham, by opening a School in Ryland Street, and subsequently were chiefly instrumental in establishing this Institution in 1851, of which Miss Badger was the Hon. Lady Superintendent forty-eight years."

The corner stone was laid by the Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Goodman, already referred to, and reads:—

"This corner stone of a General Institution for training and instructing the Blind as useful members of society and heirs of Eternal Life in the faith and practice of the Gospel, was laid by Thomas S. Goodman, Esq., Treasurer, April 23rd, 1851."

The occasion was an interesting one; the pupils of the Blue Coat School (168 in number) and those of the neighbouring Institution for the Deaf and Dumb (amounting to sixty-three) were invited to meet the blind pupils at Islington House and to walk with them in procession to the site in Carpenter Road. Preceding the Treasurer were several of the Clergy of the town, and the Committees of the three Institutions. The Rev. John Angel James, Pastor of Carr's Lane same, presented to Mr. Goodman the trowel, on which appeared the following words:—

" With this trowel was laid, April 22nd, 1851, the Foundation Stone of the General Institution for the Blind at Edgbaston, by Thomas Goodman, Esq., Treasurer, whose zealous and successful efforts to give extension and permanency to a School of Christian instruction and useful employment, originally established and conducted by the private labours of female benevolence, entitle him to be accounted as its second founder."

The Rev. J. C. Miller, Rector of the Parish Church (St. Martin's), " affectionately addressed the young people present." A well executed medal designed by Messrs. Allen and Moore was presented to each pupil (one is still preserved at the Institution), and an announcement was made that £5,000 had been received towards the Building Fund. The annual subscription at that time had increased to £767. In the Annual Report at this period, emphasis is laid upon the fact that *the Institution offered its benefits to the Blind from every part of the Kingdom*. The average cost per head then appears to have been " something less than 4/- weekly for each inmate."

The total cost of the building as it first stood was £7,000. It was erected from the design of Messrs. Coe and Goodwin, of Sydenham, and the contractors were Messrs. Branson and Gwyther. The opening ceremony took place on Thursday, July 22nd, 1852. Subscribers and friends walked in procession from the Institution to St. James' Church, Edgbaston, about half a mile distant, where divine service was held, and the sermon was preached by the Hon. and Rev. Grantham M. Yorke. The organist and choir were selected from the pupils of the Institution, and the day closed with a sacred concert by the pupils in the music room at the Institution, in which had been erected a " Bishop " organ costing 360 guineas. After the opening of the building, the pupils rapidly increased in number from twenty-eight to forty-three.

In 1849 the Rt. Hon. The Earl Howe was elected President, and filled the position until 1852, when the Rt. Rev. Lord Bishop of Worcester was appointed. He was President until 1856, and was then succeeded by the Rt. Hon. Lord Calthorpe, whose name appears as President until 1910, when he was succeeded by F. H. Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe, Esq.,

The first Annual Meeting in the present building was held on July 22nd, 1852, immediately before the opening ceremony. The Hon. and Rev. Grantham M. Yorke, Rector of St. Philip's, Birmingham, and Rural Dean, occupied the chair.

The records show that in 1853 a blind organist and full choir were supplied to St. James' Church, Edgbaston. Also that a pupil blind and deaf was admitted in that year.

In 1855 the present large basket shop was erected at a cost of £846, and weaving and mat-making were then introduced in the old basket shop. The latter industry has been taught and practised ever since.

In February, 1858, a new departure was introduced in the form of an Adult Blind Tutor named Joseph Dunn, who hailed from London. He visited the homes of the adult blind, and gave them instruction in reading Moon's system. In those days there were about eighty members of the Adult Blind Branch—now there are nearly 500. The development of this phase of the work of the Institution is, therefore, quite as pronounced as the other sections. It is interesting to record that in the seventh Annual Report it is stated that "The proportion of blind to seeing persons throughout the country is about one in 1,500, and that in Warwickshire at the previous census it was reported to be as much as one in 1,100."

In 1859 a Master's House was added to the building (now used as an infirmary), and seven years later the largest trade now practised at this Institution—that of brush-making—was introduced. Suitable shopping was specially erected for the purpose.

The first record of a pupil receiving an appointment as organist appears to have been in 1854, when John Ware was appointed in Staffordshire at a salary of £20 per annum. There is also a record that in 1859 the famous Henry Bywater, then sixteen years of age, was invited to become organist at St. James', Wolverhampton, after receiving training at the Birmingham Institution.

In 1860 Susan Taylor was appointed organist at St. Barnabas' Church, Birmingham. Three ex-pupils obtained the F.R.C.O., several the A.R.C.O., and one the Mus. Bac. (Camb.).

The records of the Institution show that about forty blind ex-pupils have secured permanent positions as organists.

Increased accommodation being required for pupils employed in cane-seating chairs, a new shop was erected in 1871 for this purpose, and the whole cost thereof was met by Mrs. George Lea, of Hagley Road, an act of generosity which the Committee placed on record in their twenty-fifth Annual Report.

In 1880 an important change was made in the system of reading, by discarding Lucas's system and substituting that of Braille, now almost exclusively used in the education of the blind of this country, not only in the matter of reading and writing, but also for musical notation.

In December, 1889, the late Mr. Richard Middlemore gave to the Institution the sum of £2,000, the interest of which is used under a Trust Deed for the purpose of assisting well-conducted blind pupils to start in life on the completion of their training.

Periodically the Institution buildings were added to, but on March 24th, 1891, the Governors unanimously decided to make very extensive alterations, involving an expenditure of about £12,500. These included the provision of a handsome spacious gymnasium, new kitchens, stores, &c., and improved workshops. The Countess of Dudley opened the buildings on May 19th, 1893. Thus enlarged and modernised, the Institution was well suited for the influx of children consequent on the passing of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, which came into operation on January 1st of the year following. The alterations considerably increased the accommodation, which previously was for sixty-five pupils, and under the new arrangements it was possible to receive 106 resident children, and every place was taken up very shortly afterwards.

The Institution now began to make rapid headway. H. M. Inspectors testified to the thorough efficiency of the education imparted, while the Committee devoted special attention to the instruction of the pupils in suitable handicrafts.

The trading section of the work of the Committee increased by leaps and bounds. The total sales in 1897 were £3,106, and

the wages to the blind workers £549; in the year ended March 31st, 1915, the sales were £18,732, and the wages to the blind workers £5,112.

A fund was established in 1905 known as the "Blind Workers' Wage-Augmentation Fund." The Committee appointed two collectors to visit workshops in the district and to generally canvass employers of labour with a view to obtaining subscriptions or donations for the express purpose of augmenting the scanty earnings of the blind, who were paid at trade union piecework rates. This fund has been most helpful to the blind workers, who have participated in as much as £1,400 per annum in the way of weekly distributions.

New occupations for the Blind were introduced in the decade 1897 to 1907, among which were the following:—Machine knitting, manufacture of coal bags and cylinder covers, boot-mending, shorthand and typewriting. It is interesting to note that the shorthand system and machine for the Blind originated at the Carpenter Road Institution, Edgbaston, and are now extensively used by the Blind in all parts of the world. By this system it is possible for blind persons to write at the rate of 160 words per minute, and verbatim reports of three triennial conferences of the Blind have been taken by this system. In this connection it may be well to state that there is a typewriting department in the centre of the city, in which five blind girls are constantly employed. This department is connected with the shop for the sale of goods in Christ Church Passage, New Street.

A period of great activity has taken place since 1893, under the Chairmanship of Mr. E. M. Goodman from 1894 to 1902, Mr. Arthur L. Lowe from 1902 to 1913, and of Mr. Alfred Wilson, who succeeded Mr. Lowe, and is still in office.

The Governors at their meeting held on December 7th, 1895, considered the proposal to erect a branch school for the accommodation of forty resident children of tender years, and unanimously decided to adopt the suggestion. An admirable site of nearly ten acres was secured at Harborne as the result of the enquiries of the Committee led by Mr. E. M. Goodman,

who at that time was Chairman. The vendor was Mr. George Edwards, the then Chairman of the School Committee, who sold it to the Committee on very generous terms. Because of the South African War it was considered advisable to defer appealing for funds just then, and it was decided that when the war had terminated energetic measures should be taken to raise the necessary amount for the erection of a Kindergarten. The sum required was nearly £19,000, and thanks to the liberality of many friends £15,829 was speedily obtained. The Kindergarten has been built and equipped on the most approved principles. It is the first building of its kind to be erected in the United Kingdom, and is well worthy of the city motto "Forward." The results of the training of pupils on Kindergarten principles have more than fulfilled the Committee's expectations.

In the year 1905 it was found to be necessary to carry out extensive structural alterations at Carpenter Road once again, and this involved an expenditure of about £3,000. The scheme included increased and isolated sick wards, new and improved lavatories and bathrooms for pupils and staff, better provision for storing household linen and clothing, additional workshops and office accommodation, together with precautions against loss of life and property by fire.

In October, 1908, new workshops were opened for the manufacture of mats, &c., on the freehold site at Harborne, the building, equipment, &c., costing over £3,000.

In February, 1913, the brush department was transferred to new workshops erected on the site adjoining the mat department at Harborne. This transfer involved an expenditure of considerably over £5,000.

In order to perpetuate the name of Mr. Henry Stainsby, who served the Committee for a period of twenty-eight years, it was determined in October, 1908, by the members of Committee and Staff to found a pension fund for the Blind. For this purpose subscriptions amounting to £250 were received, and in June, 1912, a Bazaar was organised by Mrs. C. H. Price, and her friends, which yielded the handsome amount of £1,000.

Following on this, another Pension Fund was established for blind women by an anonymons donation of £700 to commemorate the name of the late Mrs. Mary Hadley.

The fees for education and training are £30 per annum for resident pupils, and £10 10s. od. for day pupils at Edgbaston; while for resident pupils at Harborne 25 guineas per annum is charged. Thanks to Gardner's Trust for the Blind there are six scholarships tenable at the Carpenter Road Institution under certain conditions, of the annual value of £30 each.

In October, 1910, fifty day scholars were received at Edgbaston under a special arrangement with the City Education Committee. These children possessed partial sight, and it was thought that it might be preserved if they were taught on the oral system for about two years, and eye-strain thus avoided. So far the experiment has been fully justified, 22% of the children having been transferred to sighted schools.

In December, 1910, the Committee approached the City Council respecting the prevention of blindness, and urged the necessity of making Ophthalmia Neonatorum compulsorily notifiable. The suggestion was adopted, and in October, 1914, the Medical Officer informed the Committee that during the previous year 220 cases had been notified to him, and that only one had lost its sight.

There are eight Sub-Committees, which report the results of their deliberations to the monthly meetings of the General Committee. These Sub-Committees were appointed in the years shown below:—

Middlemore Trust	...	...	...	1893
House and Finance	...	...	...	1894
School	...	...	...	1894
Kindergarten	...	...	...	1899
Trade	...	...	...	1903
Pensions	...	...	...	1909
Wage-Augmentation Fund	...	...	...	1909
Adult Blind	...	...	...	1914

An interesting document adorns the wall of the Board Room, giving the names of the Chairmen of the various Committees, and the Honorary Officers. Also the periods for which they served. In addition, there are pictures of Miss

Mary Badger, Mr. Thomas Goodman, the Rev. George Lea, Mr. W. Ashby Bolton, and Mr. George Edwards. There is also a photograph of the late Mr. Thomas Horne, of Solihull, who bequeathed a large sum of money to the Institution. Representatives of two families have been connected with the Institution from the commencement. Mr. Thomas Goodman, already referred to as first Treasurer and some time Chairman; his son, Mr. J. D. Goodman, who was a member of the Committee and a Trustee from 1858, until his death in 1900; and his two grandsons, Mr. E. M. Goodman and Mr. F. B. Goodman—the former has been a member of the Committee since June, 1885, and for eight years was Chairman, and the latter has served for forty-one years as a member. Both Mr. E. M. Goodman and Mr. F. B. Goodman are still members of the Committee. The first Auditor was Mr. William Bolton, who held the position from 1848 until 1873; his son, Mr. W. Ashby Bolton, was then elected a member of the Committee, and served until his death in 1914, when Mr. L. Ashby Bolton, grandson of Mr. William Bolton, was appointed to the vacancy created by the death of his father last year. From this it will be gathered that there has been a continuity of interest in the blind displayed by two families for nearly seventy years—a distinction of which the Committee are very proud.

In order to commemorate the visit to Birmingham of the late King Edward and Queen Alexandra on July 7th, 1909, Royal Patronage was graciously bestowed on the Institution, the title of the one in Carpenter Road being changed to "The Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind," and the Harborne one to "The Queen Alexandra Kindergarten for the Blind." An autograph portrait of Queen Alexandra hangs in the vestibule of the Kindergarten.

There are twenty-three members of the General Committee, and they meet on the second Monday of every month. No Institution could have a more keenly interested Committee, whose policy has been and is, not only to endeavour to make the blind self-reliant, but as much as possible to prevent blindness.

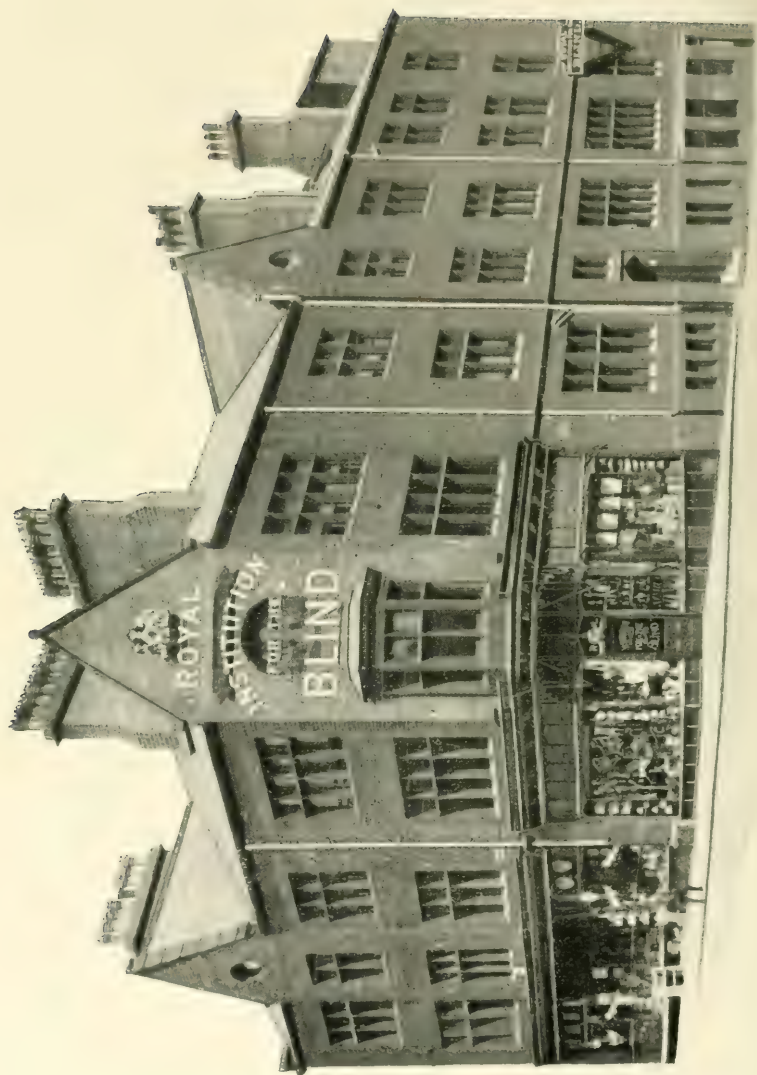
Appended is a table showing the general development of the work of the Institution since 1848:—

Table showing Growth of Institution since its foundation.

Year ended March 25th.	No. of Beds.	Resident Pupils during the year.	Day Pupils.	Blind Teachers.	Blind Day Workers.	Blind Travellers	Middle-Trust and other Beneficiaries.	Blind Clerk and	Blind Porters.	Other Servants (Blind)	Adult Blind visited and assisted at their own homes.	Total No. of Blind Persons benefited during the year.	Income excluding Legacies and Sales of Manufactured Goods.	Legacies only	Total Income including Legacies but not Sales of Manufactured Goods.	Sales of Manufactured Goods.	Wages to Blind Work-people	Total Wages and Salaries to Blind.
1848	15	20										20	£247	Nil.	£247	£ 6		
1850	15	25										25	2006	Nil.	2006	44		
1855	45	50		1								50	1779	£265	2035	112		
1860	50	62		5	1						75	137	1837	90	1927	176		
1865	55	68		4	5						137	205	2166	385	2551	486		
1870	65	71		6	11	2					144	226	1790	240	2030	1266		
1875	65	76		6	12	2					173	261	2060	320	2380	2143		
1880	65	69		6	20	2					230	319	2407	1372	3779	1979		
1885	65	73		6	19	2					257	358	2369	2119	4488	1855		
1890	65	87		7	17	2					292	403	2617	1616	4233	2141	£355	
1895	116	117		2	11	2					311	461	3520	1273	4793	2481	476	
1900	116	142		5	11	48	1	25	1	2	367	603	5022	615	5637	4977	1097	
1901	116	140		4	11	57	1	24	1	2	371	612	5033	484	5517	5908	1499	
1902	116	127		10	11	61	1	19	1	2	372	605	4863	3241	8104	6267	1753	
1903	116	134		12	11	63	1	20	2	1	369	615	5251	1157	6408	6979	1907	
1904	116	136		12	12	66	4	25	4	2	371	634	5448	4596	10044	8441	2245	£3351
1905	156	170		9	10	68	4	19	5	2	371	660	6191	3857	10048	8505	2417	3567
1906	156	175		8	10	76	5	14	5	2	375	673	7229	819	8048	10270	2997	3783
1907	156	182		9	13	80	5	16	5	2	389	704	7762	2919	10681	10956	3281	4201
1908	156	176		9	13	91	5	28	5	3	395	727	8229	3343	11672	12036	3772	4786
1909	156	178		8	13	108	7	40	6	2	405	769	8145	4336	12501	11020	4037	5108
1910	156	186		7	12	117	7	72	6	2	400	811	8440	1207	9647	12378	4740	5842
1911	156	176	59	12	122	7	102	6	2	2	408	896	8903	5280	14183	14052	4697	9220
1912	156	178	84	12	145	7	137	6	2	2	413	986	9260	2745	12005	16188	4627	6179
1913	156	188	80	12	123	7	139	6	2	2	426	985	9494	502	9996	16485	4943	6546
1914	156	176	84	12	131	6	148	6	2	2	419	986	9678	1424	11102	17061	4906	6448

* Year ended March 31st

† Day Scholars included



The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 72.

OCTOBER 20TH, 1915.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. We heartily congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Priestman on attaining the 50th anniversary of their marriage on the 13th of September last. Mrs. Priestman has been a member of the Committee of the Bradford Institution for the Blind since 1868, and in 1883 during his mayoralty Mr. Priestman formed a Committee of gentlemen, and has been Chairman ever since. Mr. and Mrs. Priestman visited the Institute on their golden wedding day, addressed the workers, and gave 10/- to each of them, and they also gave 5/- to each blind person in the city not employed at the Institute. About 360 blind persons were benefited by these gifts. Excellent photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Priestman were presented to them by the Committee, and the employees presented a shawl knitted by the blind workers.

2. Captain Towse, V.C., who was blinded in the South African War, has been appointed Hon. Staff Captain. He has been a great assistance to the wounded in France by typing letters for them, and in other ways.

3. The Rev. Dr. W. H. Robins, Hon. Canon of Rochester and Rural Dean, late of the College for the Higher Education of

the Blind, Worcester, has resigned the Vicarage of Gillingham, on the completion of thirty-seven years devoted ministerial work. Canon Robins became blind, as the result of being struck by a cricket ball. He received his D.D. degree in 1889 from Trinity College, Dublin, whence he graduated in 1872.

4. The Rev. C. E. Bolam, Rector of S. Mary Magdalene, Lincoln, and formerly of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, has been appointed Head Chaplain of the 4th Base Hospital for wounded soldiers at Lincoln. There are over 1,000 beds in the hospital.

5. The Rev. W. E. Lloyd, M.A., formerly of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, and of Keble College, Oxford, has been appointed curate of Holy Trinity, Trowbridge, and entered on his duties in July last. Previously he was curate at St. Barnabas, Hove.

6. The following students at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester passed certain examinations in July, viz., D. J. Roberts (Gardner Scholar), passed the Durham Matriculation and entered Lichfield Theological College in September. He intends to read for the Durham L.Th.; and W. A. Fooks passed the Cambridge Previous in both parts and in the Additional Subject. He went to Peterhouse, Cambridge, this term.

7. We heartily congratulate Dr. Fraser, Superintendent of the School for the Blind at Halifax, Nova Scotia, on receiving the honour of Knighthood from the King. Dr. Fraser, whose name appeared in the last Birthday Honours List, is well known in this country, and in Canada his name is a household word. His splendid work for the Blind in Canada provides another instance of what can be achieved by one who has lost his sight.

8. Mr. T. H. Martin, Superintendent of the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, is shortly leaving in order to under-

take the supervision of a department which will be responsible for settling and for looking after the blind sailors and soldiers who have been trained at the hostel at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, N.W.

9. Miss Hiscott is leaving the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind after a long and worthy service of fifteen years, as she has been appointed matron and resident head of the Homes for the Blind at Preston in succession to Miss Halliday. Miss Hiscott has given loyal and wholehearted service in the up-bringing and training of the girls, and her influence on their tone and character has been excellent. Her loss will be a heavy one, not only to the inmates of the Institution, but also to the Committee and the Secretary, who valued very highly her most helpful services.

10. Miss Sadie Isaacs, a Jewish blind girl at Elm Court School L.C.C., age fourteen years and a half, has greatly distinguished herself by gaining the first prize awarded by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in the open competition for an essay on the subject of cruelty to animals. This is not the first occasion on which she has given evidence of her literary ability. Over seven hundred children competed.

11. As has already been announced, the gold medal for the best essay on "The History of the Education of the Blind prior to 1830" has been awarded by the College of Teachers of the Blind to Miss E. R. Scott, Editor, with Miss Bloxam, of *The Weekly Summary*. The essay has now been printed as a booklet for the College and can be obtained from the Hon. Registrar, Mr. Henry Stainsby, 224-8, Great Portland Street, London, W., or from the editor of *The Blind*. The price per copy, post free, is 6d., but if 50 or more copies are purchased at one time, the price is reduced to 4½d per copy. We wish to bring this booklet to the especial attention of our readers in the hope that they will buy copies. It is a valuable, succinct and trustworthy account of

what was done for and by the Blind up to 1830. Miss Scott has done well in bringing into prominence Nicholas Saunderson, who died in 1739, and the two remarkable blind ladies, Mademoiselle de Salignac and Maria Teresia Paradis, both of whom lived in the latter half of the 18th century. Reference is also made to Diderot's remarkable "Lettre sur les Aveugles," published in 1749, which as Miss Scott truly says "brought the Blind into a prominence which they had never before enjoyed." In 1745, the Frenchman, Valentin Haüy, was born, "the first, and by far the greatest of the pioneers in the education of the Blind," and in 1786, he wrote his far-reaching essay. It was not, however, till 1827 that the first book in Braille was printed. "Though to Barbier belongs the idea of using dots, to Braille belongs the honour and the lasting fame of making the system feasible." The excellent essay on a period very difficult to write about the Blind, ends with the following remark, "The invention of Braille printing is indeed the dividing line between the old and the new style of education of the Blind, and thus makes a fitting close to this little paper." At the end of the essay the alphabets are given of Haüy's, Gall's, Alston's, and Braille's types.

12. The Examinations of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships tenable at the Royal Normal College, are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

13. In our last number (par. 21) we referred to the opening of the new residential School for the Blind at Bradford, established by the Bradford Education Committee. We are much pleased to hear that some members of the Committee of the Royal Institution for the Blind, as well as Mr. M. Priestley, Manager and Secretary, have been co-opted on the House Committee of

the School, as in this way the Committee of the Institution will be in touch with the local Blind from infancy to old age.

14. Mr. John T. Nixon, an outworker at the Cardiff Institute for the Blind, is very anxious to have some Braille books in French or Spanish. Can any of our readers spare him one or two volumes? They would be much appreciated.

15. Can any of our readers kindly spare a copy of "The Blind," No. 67, July, 1914, as it is out of print, and a lady in America wishes to have it to complete her set.

16. Applicants for Hetherington's Charity please note that the office of Christ's Hospital has been removed to Nos. 26 and 27, Great Tower Street, London, E.C., a building having been erected for the purpose on the site of property which came into the possession of the Hospital under the Will of John Fowke in 1686.

17. The rates of postage on embossed literature for the blind passing between the United Kingdom and all parts of the British Empire, and also between the United Kingdom and the United States of America, were revised as from July 1st. At the same time the maximum limit of weight was raised to 6 lb. Hitherto the ordinary rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for every 2 ozs. has been charged up to 18 oz., and $\frac{2}{3}$ above that weight up to 5 lbs. On and from the date mentioned the following rates have been in force: on packets up to 18 oz., $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 2 oz.; on packets over 18 oz. but not exceeding 6 lb., a fixed charge of 5d. irrespective of weight.

18. The sixth edition (revised) of the pamphlet *Information with regard to Institutions, Societies and Classes for the Blind in the United Kingdom*, by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, is now ready and can be obtained price 3d., by post 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., at the office of the Trust, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The pamphlet consists of 87 pages, being

seven more than the last edition, and contains the names and particulars of several new societies. There is an introduction by Lord Kinnaird and a preface by Mr. Wilson. There is also a fuller index than in any previous editions. The particulars of the Institutions and Societies have either been written by, or submitted for revision to the respective secretaries, and are, therefore, presumably correct.

19. It was with much regret that we were unable to accept Mr. C. Arthur Pearson's kind invitation to accompany him and many of the blinded soldiers on the steam launch which followed the boats at the races rowed on the Thames on July 27th between recently blinded soldiers from St. Dunstan's Hostel and students from the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester. There were three events. The first, a single-sculling race between Capt. Owen of the Cape Mounted Rifles and Mr. J. F. Tracy, an old Worcester College boy, who won by a quarter of a length after a hard struggle. The second, a double-sculling match in which the soldiers won by a narrow margin. And the third, a four-oar race in tubs in which the soldiers won easily. The blind men on the launch urged on the oarsmen and cheered the winners most lustily, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

20. Officers who have lost their sight in the war have hitherto been accommodated at St. Dunstan's, Regent's Park, but the great increase in the number of cases of blindness from the front has made it necessary to find other quarters for them.

Sir John and Lady Stirling Maxwell have kindly placed at the disposal of the blinded officers their London house, 21, Portland Place. Here the officers will sleep and have their meals but they will be taught Braille reading and writing, type-writing, etc., at St. Dunstan's.

21. We are glad to say that it often falls to our editorial lot to record pleasant and interesting happenings in the world of the Blind, but no event can have surpassed in pleasure and interest

the visit graciously paid by Her Majesty Queen Alexandra on July 22nd to the Royal Normal College for the Blind at Upper Norwood, for the double purpose of opening the new Technical School and of presenting prizes to the successful students. There was only one drawback to the admirably organised function, and that was the weather, which declined altogether to assist the arrangements for outdoor enjoyment and provided a ceaseless downpour of rain from morning till night. However, even that evil was in a measure turned to good, for nothing could have better illustrated the ready resourcefulness of the Principal of the College and his Staff in meeting difficulties, as they were able at the last moment to organise a ceremony that passed off without a single jarring note, in spite of the drastic alterations rendered necessary by the hopeless weather. Her Majesty arrived at 3 o'clock, accompanied by Princess Victoria and her suite, and was received by the Council of the College and Mr. and Mrs. Guy Campbell, the Principal and his wife. A guard of honour was provided by the Royal Naval Division, Crystal Palace, and the route within the College grounds was lined by contingents of the local Volunteer Training Corps. There was also present a detachment of the Blind Boy Scouts. An enormous crowd, both within and without the College walls, had assembled to greet her Majesty and testified to the intense interest felt in the Royal visit.

The ceremony of prizegiving was held in the Gardner Hall, and her Majesty not only herself placed the prizes in the fortunate winners' hands, but spoke to each a few words of kindly encouragement, which will doubtless never be forgotten during the lives of these young people.

Lord Lamington, in moving an address of thanks to her Majesty, mentioned that since Queen Alexandra last visited the College thirty-six years ago the institution had grown beyond all expectations. Instead of three acres of grounds there were now sixteen and a half acres, and they had now added a new technical school to the buildings—a school that had been made imperatively necessary by the requests of the Board of Education. Hundreds had passed through the College equipped to fight the battle of life.

The College was not confined to children of Great Britain but was open to the Oversea Dominions and to other Nationalities. A tribute was paid to the splendid work of the Principal, and in conclusion Lord Lamington said that the College wanted another £2,000 to complete the payment for the new school.

The new building was then opened by Lord Lamington as proxy for Queen Alexandra, but her Majesty decided, in spite of the weather, to visit it and the swimming bath, where the students gave a remarkable exhibition of swimming and of life saving methods. Her Majesty afterwards took tea at the College, and returned to town about 5 o'clock, having previously expressed herself greatly pleased with the general work of the College, and congratulated the Principal and his Staff on the wonderful results of their training. It must have repaid the Principal for much anxiety and hard work to receive subsequently the following gracious letter from Marlborough House :

"I am desired by her Majesty to tell you how pleased she was with her visit to the Royal Normal College and Academy of Music for the Blind on Thursday last. Her Majesty thought that, despite the inclemency of the weather, everything went off splendidly, and desires me to thank you for the kind arrangements that were made for her. Her Majesty was intensely interested with all she saw, and fully appreciates how much thought and care is being devoted to the instruction and future welfare of those who are deprived of the ordinary interests in life, and she sincerely wishes you all possible success in this noble work.—Yours very truly, HENRY STREATFIELD, Colonel."

We cannot close this short account of the ceremony on July 22nd without referring to one who was a very important, and may we add, a pathetic figure in the day's doings. For on that day, Mr. John Young, the Manager of the Pianoforte and Tuning Department of the Royal Normal College, laid down the arduous and responsible work he had faithfully carried on for 38 years, and owing to the disabilities of advancing life, resigned his post. He had been of very great assistance to the College in its very early years and on October 1st, 1877, was definitely appointed (on the strong recommendation of

Messrs. Broadwood and Sons) to the position he has held ever since. Many hundreds of students must have passed through his hands and must look back with gratitude to the capable and conscientious work and thorough training that rendered them able to meet and overcome the difficulties inevitably attending their start in life as self-depending citizens. Mr. Young was also most successful in adapting the Slöjd work to the special need of the Blind, a measure requiring much time, thought, and ability, the effects of which were most helpful to them. He practically devoted his life time to the work of the College, and we trust that the promise that "at evening time it shall be light" may be abundantly fulfilled in the case of him who is now leaving the scene of constant and strenuous labours through which he brought light into the darkened lives of many and many a young and despairing soul, and taught them with hope and endeavour to go their several ways into the great world rejoicing in newly acquired aims and powers that should enable them to work side by side with their sighted fellow men.

22. On Tuesday, July 20th, the Speech Day and Prize-giving of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester took place. The occasion was rendered unusually interesting by the fact that Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, President of the National Institute for the Blind, and Chairman of the Blinded Soldiers and Sailors Care Committee, kindly attended to give away the prizes, and much interest in the proceedings was shewn by the large number of friends from the neighbourhood and from London who assembled to witness them. Prior to the ceremony of the prize-giving an organ recital was given by Mr. W. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., so well known to all our readers, and at its close, after the assembly had sung the National Anthem, the students of the College acted scenes from "Henry V," for which they had been most carefully and ably instructed by Miss G. M. Southwell. Lord Cobham, the Chairman, then addressed the gathering, and having welcomed Mr. Pearson stated that the endowment of the College had increased by £125 a year given in the shape of scholarships.

That meant that they must always provide scholars who were up to the standard, and able to take the scholarships. This benefaction was made from the Gardner Trust, without whose continued assistance the College would not be in existence.

For the first time they had been inspected by inspectors of the Board of Education. It was done at the Governors' request, on the initiative of the Headmaster. He thought it was a wise step to take. They had learnt a good deal from the inspection, and they received much valuable advice and many hints, which he hoped they would be able to act upon. The benefit was not altogether on one side, because the inspectors told them how very glad they were that they had been able to bring that College within the Board's purview, and complete the contact of the Board with the whole sphere of the system of the education of the Blind. That was the only College in the country—he believed in the world—which had for its sole object the higher education of the Blind.

In two-and-a-half years the Governors had never had cause to regret the choice they exercised in appointing Mr. Brown as Headmaster. He had proved to be just the man for the place. He saw at once that what was wanted was that the College should become known. They knew what he had done to promote the happiness and welfare of the boys in directions such as organising the boat races. The prospects of the College, he thought, were very good. They had not yet filled it. That was the aim they had before them. They had room for at least twenty-five boys, and they had only some fourteen or fifteen. The endowment amounted to quite £1,000 a year.

Mr. G. C. Brown, the Headmaster, gave an account of the year's work and also a list of the successes gained, which have already been mentioned in these pages. He said that they were endeavouring to bring the College up-to-date and make it as efficient as possible. The work of education involved the general training of boys' bodies, because healthy bodies meant healthy minds, and healthy minds made character. There had been considerable progress from an educational point of view. They had largely increased the range of subjects, so as to give

the boys alternatives of choice. He returned thanks to the Governors who, he said, had been exceedingly kind to him in more ways than one. He thanked also the staff for their support.

Mr. Pearson said he had profound respect and admiration for that college. It had done most splendid work in the past, and he believed it was destined to do still better work in the future. The fact that it was a College for the Blind only was a very great advantage. Boys who suffered from the handicap of blindness and were educated among other boys were apt to have the handicap constantly thrust upon them. They must be apt to feel that they were working under disadvantages. The curriculum at Worcester could leave very little to be desired, and he was delighted to hear that such practical subjects as book-keeping and shorthand and typewriting and poultry farming were included among the subjects which were taught the boys. He thought the point could not be too much emphasised that Worcester was doing a great educational work in pointing out that the proper side of the blind man to develop was his brain and not his hands. It was a general impression that blind people were only fitted to do manual work, whereas they were as well fitted as a whole man to do brain work. For the humbler walks of life, Mr. Pearson reminded them, the local authority and the State provided for the education of blind children up to the age of twenty-one in certain circumstances, and he thought that the time must come when the obligation of the State with regard to such a College as Worcester must be recognised. Those who were interested in the College might look with great pride upon the records of its scholars. More than half of them had graduated at one or other university.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Pearson was moved by the Dean of Worcester and seconded by Dr. Ranger.

On the following Wednesday there was a four-oar boatrace between the old and present students of the College, in which the latter won by four lengths, and in the afternoon the annual sports were held, and it was noticeable that in these events the same keenness and enthusiasm were manifested as would have been the case with sighted students.

23. The College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester has recently been officially inspected for the first time, and the report is so very satisfactory that the College has been placed by the Board of Education on the recognised list of efficient Secondary Schools. This is a matter for much congratulation, as it is another step forward in the education of the Blind.

24. The Bradford City Council have undertaken to bear for six months, the cost of the War Bonus scheme adopted at the Royal Institution for the Blind, which has the effect of bringing up the weekly wages of the Blind to a minimum of not less than 16/- for men, and 10/- for women. This Bonus varies from 2/- to 4/- per week, and will amount to over £500 per annum. At the end of six months, the whole matter will be reconsidered, and it is sincerely hoped that the Council will continue the payment. We believe that this is the first time in this country that public funds have been granted for the special purpose of augmenting the wages of the blind work-people. We understand that grants of this kind are made from the profits of Trading Departments over which the Council have full control.

25. Arrangements have been made for the following special articles during 1916, viz.: January. The Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind, by the Manager, Mr. Colin Macdonald.

April. The London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind, Swiss Cottage, South Hampstead, London, N.W., by the Secretary, Mr. T. H. Martin.

July (not yet arranged).

October. The Exeter Institution for the Blind, by the Secretary, Mr. W. Cutcliffe Knill, and the Superintendent, Mr. Pinn.

26. On the suggestion of one of our readers, with which we gladly comply, we propose to give in the next number a list of those connected with Institutions and Societies for the Blind who have joined the colours. We are proud to say that the list is a long one, and owing to that and to its not being even yet

quite complete, we are compelled to defer its appearance until the next issue. We shall be glad to hear from any Institution that has not already sent returns.

27. Under the notice of the "Times Fund for the Sick and Wounded," we cull the following from *The Times* of July 24th:—

"Among the many willing efforts represented by the smaller gifts, that of £7 from the children of the Blind School at Swiss Cottage calls for special notice. With this a letter written in Braille was received from the Pupils of the School, which said:—

"The Red Cross Society is doing such a splendid work for our wounded soldiers that we, the pupils of this school, would like the money usually spent on our prizes to be used by you instead."

That the pupils have been active in war work is shown by the statement of their Superintendent, Mr. T. H. Martin, who writes:—

"They have knitted between 2,000 and 3,000 pairs of socks for our soldiers and sailors and made baskets for our own Navy and the Russian Navy. They have also got up two entertainments, one for the Prince of Wales's Fund, which realized £20, and one for the Belgian Relief Fund, which realized £12."

28. The address of the London Home Teaching Society for the Blind is now 224, Great Portland Street, W., instead of Victoria Street.

29. His Majesty King George has been graciously pleased to accede to the request of the Directors of the Institution for the Blind at Dundee to use the word "Royal" in the title of the Institution, and has commanded that it be designated "The Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind."

30. A strong Committee for "Men Blinded in Battle" has been formed in New York with Mr. J. H. Choate as President.

The purposes of this Committee are: 1. To find the blind sufferers, some of whom are marooned in improvised hospitals,

farm houses or chateaux—many of whom are congregated in the large hospitals or Red Cross Stations. 2. The Committee will send visitors and teachers to these blind soldiers, furnish them with entertainment, through reading, games, etc., and for those physically able it will start the task of putting eyes on their finger tips and giving them light through work. 3. It will seek to consider the men's individual interests and abilities, and as far as possible to train them in trades and occupations for which their blindness has temporarily unfitted them, or to find new openings in which they may become wage earners.

When they have become proficient it is hoped whenever possible to return them to their home surroundings with the knowledge and tools to make them self-helpful. When this is not practicable it is hoped to establish them in congenial surroundings, where they may again have a feeling of independence and well being.

The work is under the direction of Miss Winifred Holt, an expert in organization with a knowledge of the problems of blindness, who speaks four languages and whose services are given. The teachers and visitors are natives of the country in which the work is carried on.

Most of our readers know how energetic and indefatigable Miss Holt is in any work she undertakes, therefore they will not be surprised to hear that although the headquarters are in Paris, she has already opened a "Lighthouse" at Bordeaux, the first of many which she intends to start on the same lines as the one in New York.

At present the work at Bordeaux is carried on in an old building adjoining a church and very lovely cloister, but there will soon be a new structure of which the cornerstone will bear an inscription to the effect that "the first stone was placed by the American Lighthouse Committee, organised to come to the aid of soldiers who have become blind on the field of honour." The enterprise has the enthusiastic support of the French Military Authorities and hospital officials, and we wish Miss Holt complete success in her unselfish, benevolent and all important work.

31. A Hebrew Grammar and parts of the Old Testament, according to a code devised by a brother of the Rev. N. F. McNeile, are in course of preparation in Braille from the press of the Rev. T. Barnard, former Principal of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester.

THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

North of England Union. The Quarterly Meetings of the Union were held on Monday, September 13th, at the Workshops for the Blind, Lonsdale Street, Carlisle, Lieut.-Col. Jolly (Preston) in the Chair. Much regret was expressed at the unavoidable absence of Miss Heywood, the Hon. Secretary. The Chairman extended a hearty welcome to the Lord Bishop of Barrow in-Furness, Chairman of the Carlisle Workshops Committee, Mr. Carr, the Hon. Treasurer, and other members of the Committee.

An excellent report was read by Miss Sadgrove, Organising Secretary, of work carried out since the last meeting at Leeds in June. She had visited the following places:—Scarborough, Sheffield, Doncaster, Mexboro', Conningsbro', Rotherham, Treeton, Lancaster, Barnsley, Widnes, Kendal, Carlisle, Newcastle, North Shields, South Shields, West Hartlepool, Ripon, Selby, Blackpool, and Howden.

A large number of "blind" cases were reported by the Organising Secretary, and dealt with.

Miss Hartley gave an interesting account of the work in Carlisle and district.

Mr. Niederhausern and Mr. Tate also explained recent work in North Shields and Bradford respectively.

The subjects (1) How to deal with the Defective Blind; and (2) Orders for work, etc., were all fully discussed.

At the conclusion the Bishop of Barrow expressed his thanks to the Union for holding their meetings in Carlisle. It had been a great pleasure to hear about the splendid work carried out by the Union, and he heartily congratulated the Chairman and members on the Report presented.

Tea was kindly provided by the ladies of the Carlisle Visiting Committee, and brought a most helpful and interesting day to a close.

Metropolitan Union. Meetings of the Executive Committee have been held on July 3rd and October 2nd, and much general business has been transacted. On the latter date it was announced that the Union was about to suffer a severe loss in the person of Miss Bennett, its most capable and devoted Organizing Secretary for five years. With great regret the Executive Committee received Miss Bennett's resignation, but under the circumstances were reluctantly obliged to accept it without protest. It is impossible to exaggerate the worth of Miss Bennett's services to the Union. Her wide knowledge of the Blind and sympathetic kindness in dealing with them, her mastery of Braille, and her unswerving devotion to duty, all combined to render her assistance invaluable, and immensely furthered the work of the Union through the inevitable period of storm and stress common to the establishment of all such societies. To hear Miss Bennett's opinion upon a difficult "blind" case was to hear that of an expert in such matters, and over and over again have perplexities vanished and a doubtful course become plain and simple when her experience and ability were brought to bear upon them. The Union will indeed mourn her loss, but must unselfishly rejoice in her gain, for Miss Bennett leaves to become the wife of Mr. Wheeler, of the Y.M.C.A., whom we heartily congratulate on his most fortunate choice. We are sure that Miss Bennett's good work will remain as a lasting memorial of her connection with the Metropolitan Union, and that all our readers will wish her and her husband every happiness possible in this world.

THE BRADFORD ROYAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

By Mr. M. Priestley, Manager and Secretary.

The work of the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind was initiated by Mrs. Ray, the wife of a Wesleyan Minister, the

Rev. Richard Ray, who, during the years 1857-1860, was stationed at the Eastbrook Chapel, Bradford. Mrs. Ray took a deep interest in the Blind, seeking out such of them as were in the neighbourhood of her own home that she might render them personal service, and by bringing to the knowledge of her sighted friends their condition, lead others to take part in the like gracious ministry.

Largely owing to Mrs. Ray's exertions, a public meeting was convened in the Exchange Rooms, Kirkgate, on April 13th, 1860, to promote the establishment of "an Association for supplying home teachers, and books in Moon's type, to enable the Blind to read the Scriptures." The Mayor (Mr. Isaac Wright, J.P.), presided, and the speakers included several of the leading ministers and laymen of the town. It was decided to form the Association, and that a Committee of ladies to consist of a Treasurer, two Secretaries, and eight or more other members should be appointed "to collect subscriptions, arrange for and employ a teacher or teachers to visit the Blind at their respective homes for instruction, provide a library, lend out the books, and otherwise promote the objects of the Association."

By the election of Miss Holloway as Honorary Secretary, the Committee was fortunate enough to secure a lady whose enterprise, resourcefulness, and business capacity proved of inestimable value from the very outset, and whose subsequent labours on behalf of the Blind, during the period of forty-five years which followed, were characterised by the utmost devotion and zeal.

A blind teacher, named William Cooper, of London, was appointed to visit the Blind and teach them the "Moon's System" at their own homes. Books for collecting subscriptions in aid of the Society having been obtained and distributed, several of the ladies applied themselves to this important duty with characteristic energy and success. Monthly meetings of the Committee were held at Mrs. Ray's house, and upon her removal from Bradford, at the Counting-house of Mr. Rand's Mill in Horton Lane, Mrs. Lythall became one of the Hon. Secretaries and took an equally prominent part with Miss

Holloway in the direction of affairs for thirty-eight years, whilst the special attention which she personally devoted to the development and oversight of the fancy knitting department contributed enormously to the success of that branch of the Institution's work.

Mr. Cooper's visits and lessons were greatly appreciated by the Blind and so successful had been his labours that by the end of the year eighty-six persons had received instruction, many having thereby learned to read for the first time in their lives.

The earnestness and zeal of the Committee and the gratifying success of the teacher encouraged the Blind to petition "that something might be done to help them to become useful members of society and not a burden upon it," and after careful consideration, though foreseeing many difficulties, the Committee felt that they could not do otherwise than make an effort in their behalf. A house, No. 10, Rawson Place, was taken at a rent of £24 a year, and, having been fitted up to provide accommodation for basketmaking, brushmaking, and knitting, Mr. Cooper and his wife (a sighted woman) were placed in charge.

The Institution was opened on October 31st, 1862, and a few days afterwards four women and six men were admitted as day-workers. A blind brushmaker from London was engaged to teach brushmaking, whilst Mrs. Lythall, one of the ladies of the Committee, kindly undertook the teaching and supervision of the knitting department.

After twelve months' experience the Committee found it necessary to dispense with the services of the blind teacher of brushmaking and to appoint in his place a sighted working foreman. The advantages of this change were immediate and striking; not only did the workers greatly improve in skill and efficiency, and their numbers increase to such an extent as to render the limited space of the workrooms inconveniently crowded, but the output advanced from £269 3s. 6d. in 1863 to no less than £1,748 in 1865.

The Committee had therefore to decline further applications for admission pending the acquisition of larger and more com-

modious premises. In the meantime the boring and finishing department, providing employment for sighted workmen, was transferred to an auxiliary workshop in Brunswick Place. The efforts to find any suitable building proving unsuccessful, and the Committee having later received notice to quit the premises in Rawson Place, the only alternative presenting itself was the erection of a new building. A few gentlemen, some of whom had already shown considerable interest in the work that was going on, were invited to aid the Committee in the consideration of the undertaking, the ladies meanwhile making an appeal to their friends for financial support. So admirable was the response that within a short time upwards of £1,300 had been promised, whereupon the gentlemen were constituted a Building Committee, the Mayor, Alderman Charles Semon, J.P., being appointed Chairman, a site was obtained, and Messrs. Knowles and Wilcock, Architects, instructed to prepare plans and proceed with the building.

The first stone was laid on January 29th, 1867, by Mr. (afterwards Sir) Matthew W. Thompson, and the building was completed and opened on the 3rd June, 1868, by Mr. Charles Semon, the Chairman of the Building Committee.

There were at this time forty-two workers employed at the Institution, whilst upwards of one hundred others were being visited and taught to read in their own homes. Several of the latter were sick and aged, and it is recorded that the blind workers made collections amongst themselves to assist some who were in circumstances of special need.

At the close of 1871, the workers had increased to fifty-two, the income from subscriptions and donations was £314, whilst the sum received for goods sold amounted to £5,669 18s. 4½d.

Ten years later, however, the position had altered considerably, and in 1881 there were not wanting matters of moment demanding serious thought and attention. The workers had been kept fairly well employed despite the fact that during the later years of the decade Bradford had experienced "a season of extreme commercial depression." Although the total number had only increased to fifty-eight, there had been no less than

forty-five admissions, many of those admitted in earlier years having passed away in the interval.

In 1874 an additional building was erected over a shed in the yard, and a gas engine, new hoist, and other machinery placed in it, in order that boring work, by sighted workmen, hitherto done away from the Institution, might be more advantageously carried on within its walls. At that time business was very prosperous, and the outlay, amounting to upwards of £600, was felt to be fully justified. The expenditure absorbed the credit balance at the bank, however, and throughout the years following there gradually crept up an overdraft of £300 a year until in 1882 the amount had increased to £1,559, and "any attempt to raise the sum necessary to clear it off by donations seemed hopeless." Then it occurred to a member of the Committee, Mrs. Sussmann, that the sum needed to pay off the debt and to efficiently carry on the work of the Institution might be raised by a bazaar. This proposal was warmly approved by members of the Committee, and by other ladies who promised their support, with the result that the bazaar took place in St. George's Hall in the Autumn of 1883, when the magnificent sum of £3,108 was realised, and the Institution once more set free from financial embarrassment.

Its business had now become so extensive, and the anxieties connected with its administration so serious that the Committee decided to approach the Mayor, Alderman F. Priestman, J.P. (whose good wife had for some time been one of their number), and invite him to form a gentlemen's Committee for the management of financial and business matters, the ladies meanwhile reserving as their special department the oversight of the women workers, and the care of the sick, aged, and infirm outside the Institution. At the request of the Mayor, a number of gentlemen kindly undertook the responsibility offered to them, Mr. Priestman himself being elected Chairman, a position which he has ever since occupied with distinguished success, and in which it is hoped he may continue to render invaluable services to the Blind for many years to come. Upon the initiative of the Chairman the work of the Institution was thoroughly

re-organised, a paid Secretary appointed, and many desirable reforms carried into effect.

In 1884, the Committee had the good fortune to receive a portion of the "John Harrison Bequest for the Blind," amounting to £3,000. This sum, subsequently increased to £4,000, was placed in the hands of Trustees, the interest to be devoted to providing "annuities for respectable blind persons residing in Bradford." In seeking out the best investment for this Fund, attention was drawn to the fact that the Institution stood upon a site for which an annual ground rent of £166 was payable. Mr. F. S. Powell, the owner, when approached upon the subject, agreed to capitalise the amount, and by arrangement with the Trustees the site of the Institution was made freehold land. In carrying out this transaction Mr. Powell made a valuable concession amounting to about £650, whilst the Institution paid less than the former ground rent, and the Harrison Fund received a higher rate of interest than would have otherwise been possible. Rules for the administration of the Trust were duly prepared, and eight blind annuitants at once elected. The following year eight more were added, and the Fund became a most useful and beneficent auxiliary to the work of the Ladies Committee amongst the aged and needy blind.

The next few years found all departments in vigorous and successful operation, many new workers being admitted, and the sales correspondingly increased.

The year 1888 was a prosperous year, and advantage was taken thereof to found a "Sick Club" for the workers, when forty-three members were enrolled. The worker's contribution was fixed at 2d. per week, and the allowance, in the case of sickness, at 5s. per week for three months, and 2s. 6d. a week for a further period of three months should the disablement continue so long. These benefits were subsequently increased to 9s. and 4s. 6d. respectively, the weekly contribution still remaining the same. The Sick Club was disbanded in 1913 on account of the provision of the National Insurance Act, and the accumulated funds £170 4s. 6d. were disbursed amongst the members.

In 1891 the number of workers had increased to seventy-nine, no less than fifty-one having been admitted during the previous ten years. The sales, which in 1881 were £6,178, had now reached £12,437, whilst the surplus of assets over liabilities, exclusive of land and buildings, amounted to £6,754. A pleasing feature of the year was the grant of a bonus to the workers of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. upon the wages earned during the previous year, and at the same time it was thought a fitting opportunity to commence a "Savings Bank" so that small sums, not required for immediate use, might be invested with the Committee.

From time to time various structural alterations became necessary in order to provide additional accommodation for the workers, and in 1893 the Committee decided to make several improvements to the retail shop, including new modern frontage, increased warehouse accommodation in the basement, &c. The tenancy of the adjoining premises, having become vacant shortly afterwards, it was decided to subject them to similar structural alterations, thus bringing them up to date, and making them uniform in appearance and extent with the rest of the building.

The year 1893 witnessed the inauguration of the "Busy Bee," another of Miss Holloway's beneficent inventions for ministering to the comfort of the Blind. Having obtained a grant of £5 from the funds of the Institution, and a further sum of £2 9s. 4d. from "A Friend," the amount was spent in material suitable for making underclothing. Thirty-eight ladies were invited, and agreed to make at least two garments each during the year out of the material supplied to them for gratuitous distribution to the Blind, thus forming the "Busy Bee," an organisation that has grown year by year, until in 1914 nearly 300 garments were distributed, the material being provided at a cost of £20.

In 1895 the Institution was incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1890, and the title was altered to "The Bradford Incorporated Institution for the Blind." This step was considered necessary in order to give the Institution a legal status in the trading departments, &c. .

Pianoforte tuning was taken up in 1896, and a new mat weaving department opened in 1897.

Three additional charities were established, the "Queen Victoria Pension Fund," in 1897; the "Mrs. Lythall Memorial Fund," in 1899; and the "Ada Waud Memorial," in 1900, whilst the Committee of the "John Harrison Fund," disbursed in annuities to the needy blind, not only its own annual income of £166, but also, for a few years, a supplementary grant from the general fund of £110 per annum.

The death of Mrs. Lythall, which took place on October 13th, 1899, was a great sorrow to all those with whom she had been identified in the administration of the Institution, whilst the Blind, in whose welfare she had for thirty-eight years taken such a deep interest, mourned her loss as that of an intimate personal friend. During the later years of her life she had devoted herself to a movement for providing pensions for elderly blind workpeople, of which the "Queen Victoria Pension Fund" was the outcome, and it was therefore deemed fitting that the memory of her faithful and devoted services should be perpetuated in the same manner, hence the memorial fund which bears her name.

In 1896, and at each succeeding anniversary, the date of the opening of the Institution was celebrated by a commemoration entitled "Founder's Day," and in connection with these events most interesting addresses were delivered by Mr. Alfred Hirst, Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Sir Francis J. Campbell, Mr. Henry Stainsby, and other gentlemen of note in the blind world.

A new building was erected in 1902 giving additional floor space upon each landing of the Institution, and a new storey over all, the total cost being £2,340.

About this period the advocates of "municipalisation of charitable institutions" directed their attention to the Institution for the Blind, and urged upon the City Council the desirability of taking over its administration. With a view to ascertaining what were the actual circumstances of the needy blind of the city, and what steps, if any, could be taken by the Corporation to better their condition, the City Council appointed a Sub-

Committee to specially investigate the matter. To this Committee representatives were invited from the School Board, the Board of Guardians, the Trades Council, and from the Institution for the Blind. At the request of the Committee, and with the assistance of two officers of the Corporation, Mr. Tate prepared a Register of the Blind, giving particulars kindly supplied by the Blind themselves as to their circumstances and condition. Two hundred and eighty-one blind persons were enumerated, when it was found that there were:—

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Institution Workers	55	23	78
Institution Pensioners	13	15	28
Pensioners from other sources	5	2	7
School Teachers, Music Teachers, Pianoforte Tuners, and Students	8	5	13
Newsagents, Hawkers	6	0	6
Women engaged in household duties	—	14	14
Possessing Private Means	3	3	6
Aged persons and others, supported by relatives and friends	16	9	25
Ditto, in receipt of Out Relief	4	5	9
Ditto, being Inmates of the Workhouses at Bradford and Clayton	16	23	39
Ditto, by begging in the streets	6	2	8
	Boys.	Girls.	
Children at School	15	18	33
Children under School age	7	8	15
	154	127	281

Several meetings of the Committee took place, and after careful and minute investigation of the circumstances of the above, and full inquiry into the working of the Institution for the Blind, and the day school for blind children at Cariton Street, the Committee adopted "Recommendations" to the Health Committee of the Corporation in regard to the Prevention of Blindness amongst young children; to the Technical Instruction Committee that they should establish maintenance training scholarships for the Blind above the age of sixteen;

and that steps should be taken to bring before the Guardians of the Poor the condition of a few of the blind (both Institution workers and others) who were unable to earn sufficient to maintain themselves, with the object of inducing the Guardians to make a small grant to the Institution for the Blind for the purpose of supplementing such earnings. The importance and value of this enquiry can scarcely be overestimated, inasmuch as it brought into intimate relationship all the public bodies having to do with the blind, and prepared the way for the fullest co-ordination in regard to them at a later date.

During 1903 the technical training of the Blind was entirely re-organised. New class-rooms and more adequate teaching arrangements were provided, and an application made to the Education Department for the recognition of the Institution as a Certified Training Centre for the Blind. After due inspection the necessary authority was received and the classes became eligible to receive Educational Grants from the Government. The Bradford Education Authority made a liberal grant towards the equipment and staffing of the centre, and instituted "Maintenance Scholarships" of the value of £10, £12, and £15 for the young blind of sixteen years of age and upwards, to cover a period of training not exceeding five years.

In the summer of 1905 a "Blind Workpeople's Summer Holiday Fund" was initiated by the proprietors of the *Bradford Daily Telegraph* which proved very successful, the sum of £106 9s. being subscribed in sums of "One Shilling" and upwards. Seventy-six workers participated in the Fund. This arrangement was continued for seven years, when the Committee of the Institution established an annual holiday of one week, together with an allowance to each blind employee.

The Men's Training Home, in Springfield Place, was opened in 1906, and nine men who had previously been street mendicants or inmates of the Workhouse were received for training. The Home was the outcome of the discussions which took place between the Board of Guardians and the Committee of the Institution during the enquiry instituted by the City Council in 1903, and was the embodiment of a proposal made by the

Chairman of the Guardians, Mr. F. H. Bentham, as a means of providing maintenance and employment for those of the adult blind who were unable to earn sufficient for their own living. The men were taught simple handicrafts, and in so far as the amount produced by the efforts of the workers was insufficient, the Guardians undertook to make such a grant per inmate as would defray the entire cost of maintenance and administration.

The death of Miss Holloway, which took place on July 12th, 1906, a few days after the completion of her eightieth year, occasioned profound sorrow to the Blind and their friends. Miss Holloway had been one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Institution from the commencement. It was largely owing to her tireless energy and boundless enthusiasm that so much of the early success was due, whilst in later years her intimate knowledge, wide experience, and sound judgment rendered her a tower of strength to the Committee, and the unfailing friend and benefactor of the Blind. No one observing her keen interest and alert attention would have surmised that she had attained to such an advanced age, or that the services she continued to render with such characteristic thoroughness and efficiency extended back for a period of forty-five years.

Miss Holloway left a legacy to the Institution of £250, to which was added by friends and from the general fund a further sum of the same amount, the whole being invested to provide annuities for two of the needy blind workers, and to perpetuate her revered memory as the "Miss Holloway Memorial Fund."

The success of the Men's Training Home in Springfield Place encouraged the Committee to make similar provision for blind women, and a house having been purchased upon reasonable terms at 10, Spring Bank, this was fitted up, and on July 27th, 1908, duly opened by Mrs. Frederick Priestman as a Women's Training Home, eight inmates being admitted, the cost, including furnishing, amounting to £923.

The pupils in the Technical classes having increased to such an extent that it became imperatively necessary to obtain additional accommodation, and there being no further extension possible within the building, it was decided in 1909 to acquire a

large warehouse at 38, Piccadilly, and convert it into a branch of the Institution ; this the largest extension since the erection of the Institution itself in 1868, was a serious undertaking and added considerably to the financial responsibilities of the Committee, but in view of its urgent necessity there was no alternative but to "go forward," in the hope that the public would fully approve and adequately support the enterprise. The conversion of the building to the use of the Institution entailed an expenditure of £433, and included a series of staircases, electric motors, heating, lighting, &c., together with the provision of a dining-room and cooking apparatus. Upon being completed the Branch was publicly opened by the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor (Mr. James Hill, J.P.), and the work of the basket and skip-making, and of the mat weaving departments transferred there. Following upon this the rooms formerly occupied were thoroughly renovated and utilised for additional warehouse, office, and workroom accommodation, and to provide a library and gymnasium.

The Free Libraries Committee established a library of books in the Braille Type at the Central Free Library, Darley Street, in 1892, and in 1912 they opened a branch library at the Institution for the benefit of the Blind of Bradford. The Braille teacher, Mr. John Carr (blind) was appointed Librarian. Arrangements were made for the library to be open daily, Mondays to Fridays, from 5 to 6.30 p.m. The Free Libraries Committee provided a good supply of literature in the raised type, and the venture proved to be a great success. In 1909 the Tramways Committee granted "free passes" for use on the cars, a privilege which is greatly valued, about 380 passes having been applied for and supplied to blind residents within the city.

In 1911 the celebration of the Jubilee of the Institution was attended with great interest and success.

On May 1st an Exhibition composed of a very fine collection of articles made by the Blind at the principal Institutions throughout the country was opened by the Lord Mayor (Coun. J. Moser, J.P.). The visitors were entertained to luncheon by Mr. Fredk. Priestman, Chairman of the Institution, and in the

evening, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress held a reception at the Town Hall. The visitors were delighted with the talented services of blind artistes, and evinced great interest in a lantern lecture by Mr. Hy. Stainsby (London), on the "Education and Employment of the Blind."

A Conference on the work of the Blind was held on May 2nd. Papers were read by Mr. W. H. Tate, "Fifty years' work on behalf of the Blind," and by Mr. M. Priestley, "Suggestions for future work on behalf of the Blind."

In the afternoon a very enjoyable Garden Party was held at Saltaire Park by kind permission of Sir James Roberts, Bart. Tea was served to 300 blind persons with their guides and other visitors. Mr. Frederick Priestman (Chairman of the Institution) presided at the entertainment, and during the interval distributed £118 15s. as Jubilee gifts to the employees of the Institution and others. Each worker at the Institution received 10s., blind adults, other than workers, received 5s., and every child was given half-a-crown.

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to grant permission for the title of the Institution to be altered to the Royal Institution for the Blind. This mark of Royal favour was taken as an appreciation of the fifty years work done by the Institution.

The rapid growth of the work of the Institution caused the expenditure to increase far beyond the ordinary income, with the result that at the end of 1912 there was a sum of £1,525 owing to the bank. The Committee decided to make a public appeal, including workshop and street collections, etc. By this means the sum of £1,586 was raised, and a number of new annual subscriptions were promised. The Bradford Guardians showed their practical sympathy by making a grant of £500 to meet the cost of providing for cases who would have become chargeable to them if they had not been admitted to the Institution. Subsequently the Guardians decided to subscribe one hundred guineas per annum.

This forward movement greatly increased the responsibilities of the Committee. The financial part of it was a

difficult problem to solve. A suitable provision for the capable blind has always been surrounded by many difficulties, but to undertake the responsibility of all the blind persons within the city, including those with very limited capacity, was indeed a bold step to take. The enterprise, however, has been fully justified by meeting a long-felt want in home comforts and occupation for sightless men and women who would otherwise have had to live almost in solitude, denied the charm of friendship and the ordinary pleasures of life. These persons have now some object in life, being usefully employed, having agreeable companionship, a supervision which is kindly and sympathetic and in delightful contrast with their previous experience.

In addition to training and employment, devoted and capable service has been rendered in many ways for the enjoyment and benefit of the Blind. For thirty-five years Mr. W. H. Tate has trained and directed the Choir of the Institution, demonstrating in a very practical manner how the Blind may help the cause with which they are so closely identified. By concerts and musical services the Choir has raised large sums of money for the Institution and for other special objects. On these occasions Mr. Tate generally gave an address to make the cause of the Blind more widely known.

The system of co-ordination has done much in improving and extending the work of the Institution. The Committee is composed of twenty-seven members, twelve ladies, and fifteen gentlemen, including representatives from the City Council, the Guardians, and the Trades and Labour Council. In connection with the Odsal House Residential School for Blind Children recently established by the City Council, representatives from the Institution were elected members of the House Committee. As the children become sixteen years of age they are transferred to the Institution for technical training and subsequent employment.

For the assistance of adults, the Guardians, in addition to providing for cases in the Homes referred to, give special consideration to cases of blindness where "Outdoor Relief"

appears to be the best way of dealing with them. Adequate relief is given according to the needs of each case, and in some instances the relief is paid through the Institution, so that the Blind people have not to attend at the poor law relief stations.

Wages and allowances paid to blind workpeople in 1914 were £3,496 11s 11d., which is £1,447 more than was paid ten years before when eighty blind persons were employed.

From small efforts in 1861 the Institution's history has been one of increasing activity and progress. The Institution was managed by a Ladies' Committee until 1883, and since that time under Mr. Priestman's guidance and counsel as Chairman of the Committee, great improvements have been made. It is largely due to Mr. Priestman's untiring efforts and business acumen that the blind people of Bradford have received so many advantages and now enjoy such an excellent provision for their welfare.

One of the latest developments is the purchase of a large house with extensive grounds at Frizinghall. After renovation, the house will be used as a Men's Home, in place of the present Home in Springfield Place, which is not large enough for the work carried on. In recognition of the long and valuable services rendered to the blind people of Bradford by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Priestman, the Committee have decided that the new Home shall be known as the "Frederick Priestman Home for the Blind." The adjoining site will make ample provision for the erection of workshops and other accommodation.

The Institution is represented on the Committee of the International Conference on the Blind, the Committee for the better and more general employment of the Blind, the special Committee to promote a Bill in Parliament for a system of State Aid for the Blind, the North of England Union for the Blind, etc., and a deep interest is taken in other movements for the development of this important work.

The work of the Institution is now classified and conducted in definite sections as clearly as the somewhat limited premises will permit, viz. :—

1. Technical training in suitable handicrafts, physical exercises, instruction in Braille reading, writing and music, supported by the City Council Education Committee.
2. Employment, augmentation of wages and other assistance by means of subscriptions, donations and legacies.
3. Relief obtained from the Board of Guardians for blind employees who are not able to earn sufficient for their proper maintenance at the Institution's rate of pay, maintenance grants for blind persons in the Homes for Men and Women, and in Out-relief to persons residing in their own homes who by reason of age or infirmity are not able to follow any occupation.

One hundred and thirty-four blind persons are now employed as follows;—

	Regular Employment.	Occasional Employment and Learners.
Brush-making	31	4
Basket-making	18	4
Mat-making	6	1
Knitting and Chair-caning ...	24	14
Piano Tuners	—	2
Collectors	2	—
Retail Salesman	1	—
Teacher for the Adult Blind ...	1	—
Men's Home	—	14
Women's Home... ..	—	12

The total sales for 1914 amounted to £14,066 17s. 7d.

	£	s.	d.
Brush Department	8251	4	11
Basket Department	2380	12	11
Knitting Department	1057	17	7
Shop	1740	4	8
Mat Department	541	2	0
Piano Tuning	95	15	6
	£14066	17	7

Appended hereto is a table showing the growth of the Institution since its inception in 1861, from which numerical and financial items of interest will be noticed :—

The Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind.

TABLE SHOWING THE GROWTH OF THE INSTITUTION SINCE ITS FOUNDATION.

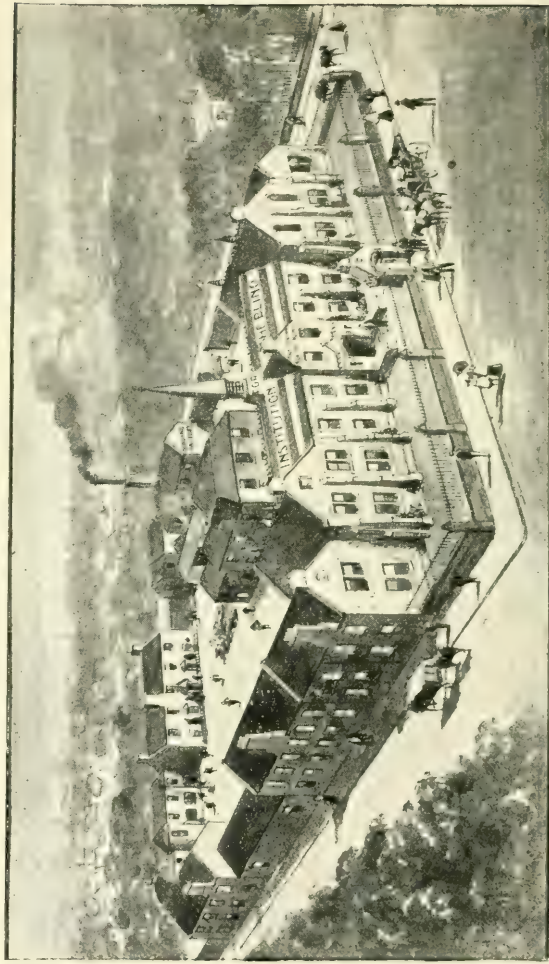
Year ended over 31st	No. of Blind on the Register.	No. of Blind employed, including Learners, &c.		Subscriptions and Donations.	Legacies.	Rents and Interest on Investments.	Sales of Manufactured Goods.	Wages and Allowances to Blind Work-people.	ANNUITANTS.						Bradford City Council grant for Technical Instruction and Scholarships.
		No. of Blind employed, including Learners, &c.							Mrs. Lythall Memorial.	Ada Ward Memorial.		Miss Holloway Memorial.			
		M	W.							No.	Amount paid.		No.	Amount paid.	
				£	£	£	£	£	No.	Amount paid.	No.	Amount paid.	No.	Amount paid.	£
1861		...	...	106	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1862		15	12	27	222	...	269	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1865		16	12	28	251	...	1748	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1870		27	15	42	306	...	4938	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1875		36	21	57	397	128	6274	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1880		35	23	58	*688	153	6924	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1885	246	41	24	65	413	174	8510	...	14	123	...	...	...	...	...
1890	227	45	31	76	334	160	12524	...	34	198	...	...	...	...	...
1894	246	52	30	82	*2000 270	225	13270	...	32	228	...	...	...	...	30
1895	246	55	27	82	279	459	14743	...	39	278	...	...	...	...	50
1898	260	59	25	85	293	634	13101	...	37	292	2	8	...	...	75
1900	269	53	25	78	282	403	12908	...	35	242	3	16	1	25	100
1905	310	52	34	86	*303 508	397	11835	2044	24	216	4	20	1	30	a189
1907	304	67	35	102	911 *250	191	13109	2641	20	181	3	20	1	30	240
1910	345	81	47	128	921	273	12655	3041	20	211	3	19	1	30	401
1911	345	81	47	128	1505	255	12997	3102	21	213	1	17	1	30	427
1912	355	82	49	131	972	311	13579	3337	21	211	1	20	1	30	400
1913	355	85	49	134	*1586 1159	298	13422	3438	24	229	1	20	2	30	427
1914	389	83	51	134	1820	315	11066	3196	21	281	4	21	3	30	508

* Special.

§ Harrison Fund.

α on A/c.

THE ROYAL DUNDEE INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.



NEW INSTITUTION
OPENED 1885.

FOUNDED
1865.

TITLE "ROYAL"
GRANTED 1915.

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 73.

JANUARY 20TH, 1916.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. We feel sure that our readers would wish to join with us in offering a few words of sympathy to Miss Edith Wright, who was Organising Secretary of the North of England Union from its commencement, and subsequently of the Midland Union. After a long illness of seven months her brother, Lt.-Col. Wright, whom she faithfully nursed and watched during that long period, passed away on November 8th, and it may truly be said in the service of his king, for there is no doubt that he contracted his illness, as a result of military duties once laid down in consequence of advancing years, but resumed to meet the urgent need of his country. Miss Wright is the last survivor of a large band of brothers and sisters, well-known in Wakefield. We trust that she will be sustained by the consciousness that her brother lost his life through his eager desire to help in the difficulties now pressing upon us as a nation. In fact it is touching to record that two days before the end came he uttered these words, "I said I would give my life for my King and Country, and now I have laid it down."

2. All interested in the education of the Blind will be pleased to know that Mr. J. M. Ritchie, of Henshaw's Asylum, Manchester, has been appointed Principal of the Swiss Cottage

School for the Blind in the room of Mr. Martin, and took up his duties last month. Mr. Ritchie is one of the examiners of the College of Teachers of the Blind and Hon. Secretary to the examiners.

3. We are pleased to hear that Mr. P. Gray has been appointed Principal of the Royal School for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol. He has recently been Principal of a School for the Blind in Montreal, and previous to that was well-known as a successful teacher of the Blind in this Country. In November last, he gave a very interesting address on "What Canada is doing for the Blind," at the Annual Public Meeting of the Bournemouth and District Blind Aid Society.

4. We note with pleasure that Mr. G. Irons Walker has been appointed manager of the Sunderland and Durham County Institute for the Blind. Mr. Walker, who is blind, was the founder of the Sunderland School for the Blind twenty-three years ago, and has now relinquished the post of Headmaster, in order to take up his new duties. We are pleased to know that the Institute has recently been placed in a much better financial position, and Mr. Walker's appointment augurs well for its future usefulness to the blind workers.

5. The Homes for the Blind for North and East Lancashire have lost the valuable services of their Lady Matron, Miss Halliday. The name of "Halliday" has been associated with the work of the Blind in Preston and surrounding districts for the past half-century. Miss Halliday's mother was a member of the first committee appointed fifty years ago, to establish Workshops for the Blind, and that lady always headed the list as honorary collector, and up to her death took an active interest in the work of the Charity. In 1885, thirty years ago, Miss Halliday joined her mother on the Committee and assisted in raising funds towards the erection of the present up-to-date Homes at Fulwood. In 1895, the Homes were opened by the Dowager Countess of Derby, Miss Halliday generously offering

to act as Hon. Lady Matron. For twenty years, without fee or reward, she has with the greatest possible tact and zeal, occupied this position. Her zealous and untiring efforts, especially on behalf of the children committed to her care, and her capacity for the office she has so devotedly held, have earned for her the gratitude and admiration of the Committee and all connected with the welfare of the Blind. She has been a veritable Lady Bountiful, her numerous gifts to the children being greatly appreciated, and too much praise cannot be given to her for her gratuitous work. She has given up her position for a well-earned rest, much to the regret of the Committee of Management. She has been one of the representatives on the General Committee of the North of England Union of Institutions and Societies for the Blind since its foundation, and has been a regular attendant at the meetings of the Union. She retired in November, and was succeeded by Miss Hiscott of the Royal Midland Institution, Nottingham, to whose appointment we referred in the last number.

6. Through the efforts of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind, a permanent position has been secured for an ex-pupil of the said Institution as a pianoforte tuner on the staff of Messrs. W. H. Priestly & Son, Birmingham.

The ex-pupil, who is totally blind, is Mr. Walter S. Goodwin. This is a practical help to a blind man, and it is interesting to know that he had satisfied the firm as to his abilities prior to the appointment being made. It is one more proof that the blind tuner is worthy of the confidence reposed in him. The Committee of the Institution are very grateful to the firm for the valuable assistance given to one of their old pupils, and it is sincerely hoped that other firms will emulate the example.

7. Miss Sadgrove, the organizing secretary of the North of England Union of Societies for the Blind, has left St. John's House, Beverley, and her permanent address is now 2, Duncombe Place, York.

8. A pleasant gathering took place on October 20th, when the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Union of Institutions for the Blind, presented Miss Bennett, the Organising Secretary, with a tea service, on her approaching marriage to Mr. Wheeler, of the Y.M.C.A. The teapot was engraved with a suitable inscription, and on making the presentation on behalf of the Committee Mr. H. J. Wilson, the Chairman, referred to the great loss of her valuable services loyally rendered in the work of the Union during the past five years. Her kind and tactful manner with the Blind had won their affection. Her intimate knowledge of Braille, her past experience as a teacher of the Blind, her strict sense of duty and her ready willingness to help at all times all combined to make her an ideal Organising Secretary. Mr. Wilson thanked her for all the invaluable work she had done for the Union in a quiet unostentatious, thorough, and conscientious manner, and tendered her the best wishes of the Committee for much happiness in her married life.

Miss Dorothy Jones has been appointed Organising Secretary in Miss Bennett's place.

9. The next examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind will be held in London at the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind by kind permission of the Committee on 6th and 7th of June. Applications from intending candidates should be made forthwith to Mr. Henry Stainsby, the Registrar of the College, 226, Great Portland Street, London, W.

10. The annual meeting of the College of Teachers of the Blind will be held on Saturday, March 4th, at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W., when the chair will be taken by the Rev. Canon H. Wesley-Dennis, M.A., Principal of St. John's College, Battersea.

11. The Examinations of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships tenable at the Royal Normal College, are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates should apply for forms of application and

return them not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

12. The special article in this number is the History of the Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind, by the Manager, Mr. Colin Macdonald. Mr. Macdonald holds a splendid record of work on behalf of the Blind, having been thirty-five years Manager of the Dundee Institution, and prior to that for over seven years in the Royal Asylum for the Blind at Edinburgh. He has thus loyally, sympathetically, and helpfully given over forty-two years in valuable work for the blind. Is there any one who has served a longer period in their cause? We know no one, and shall be glad to hear, if there is any one.

13. The special article in the July number will be the history of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Benwell Dene, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, by the House Governor, Mr. William Robertson, F.E.I.S. The School was established in 1838.

14. We have to thank very sincerely seven of our readers, most of them anonymous, who kindly sent copies of No. 67 of *The Blind*, for one copy of which we asked in our last number for a lady in America. Several other readers kindly offered to send the number if it had not been received.

15. A meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind on October 16th, when there were present Mr. Guy Campbell, Miss Garaway, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Martin, A. P. Pearson, Ritchie, Stainsby, Storey, Thurman, and Wilson in the chair.

Letters regretting their inability to attend were received from Messrs. Pine and Stone.

Many important discussions took place, the syllabus for 1916 was revised, the Sub-Committee's report on the training of

teachers was presented, the date of the annual meeting and the Chairman thereof were arranged, and it was reported that the Committee of the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W., had kindly consented to allow the examination of candidates to be held there in June.

16. On November 19th a public meeting was held to raise funds for the Sunderland and Durham County Royal Institute for the Blind, and the result was most satisfactory. The chair was taken by Mr. T. W. Backhouse, who kindly made a gift of £1,600 which he had lent to the Institute. Mr. C. A. Pearson gave an address, and promised £1,000 from the National Institute for the Blind, provided that the whole of the £4,600 appealed for was raised. Mr. Storey promised £500, and therefore there was a balance of £1,500 to raise. This was more than done by liberal gifts, and especially by Mr. Storey, who surprised the meeting by announcing that he had raised £1,319 amongst his private friends. The sum collected amounted to £1,841, and as it was £341 over the amount asked for, it was decided to try to raise £660 in addition, and pay off £1,000 of the loan on mortgage. By this most successful effort the threatened closing of the workshops has been averted, and on going to press we hear that Mr. Storey's further efforts have succeeded in raising sufficient funds to pay off the whole of the mortgage (£2,600).

17. On September 8th, a conference of delegates from various local Boards of Guardians was held at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, to consider the problem of dealing with the incompetent Blind. Representatives were present from the Poor Law Guardians of Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Nantwich, Chorley, and Ashton - under - Lyne. Alderman Plummer, J.P. was in the chair.

A paper entitled "How to deal with the incompetent Blind or the Blind in Workhouses," was read by Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Superintendent of the Institution, who dealt with insistence on the necessity for some provision being made other than the

Workhouse for the mentally defective and otherwise incompetent blind adults; they could not be kept in existing Institutions for the Blind, and they should not be allowed to live out their lives in idleness and hopelessness, either in the Workhouse or elsewhere. The Manchester Guardians had informed him that they had "decided to take steps for the boarding-out of suitable cases of blind persons chargeable to them." In this, he said, they were following the example of Liverpool, and he begged them to reconsider their decision; pointing out the many weaknesses of the boarding-out system, and comparing it with that adopted by Bradford, where all such cases were kept in a special home. He, personally, was convinced that segregation, under strict sympathetic treatment, was the real solution of the difficulty, and he quoted in support the opinions of well-known experienced workers amongst the Blind in different countries. He proposed that a home, similar to that at Bradford, should be established in Manchester. It could be run at a cost per head per week of 15/-, to be paid by the Guardians, and any profits accruing from sales of work done by inmates should be placed to their credit. The home could be managed by Henshaw's Blind Asylum.

The discussion which followed was short and entirely in favour of Mr. Illingworth's scheme. It was opened by Mr. Priestley, of Bradford, who explained in detail the methods adopted by the local authorities of that city in establishing their home. Questions on matters of administration, etc. were asked by several of the delegates.

It was decided that Mr. Illingworth's paper be printed, and copies distributed to all the local Boards of Guardians.

The meeting was followed by a tour of inspection of the Asylum and all its departments. Tea was provided for the visitors.

As a result of this Conference, matters have moved rapidly in the right direction. The Manchester Board of Guardians have arranged with the Board of Management of Henshaw's Blind Asylum to take over the care of all their blind cases. A Home for thirty men is to be opened at Oak Bank,

and in the immediate vicinity another Home for thirty women. Those capable of learning will be taught some useful occupation. The cost will be borne by the Board of Guardians, and the Homes will be managed entirely by Henshaw's Blind Asylum. This is a distinct forward movement in the interests of the Blind on the lines laid down so successfully at Bradford, and we hope it will be extensively followed. The Blind in Manchester should feel much indebted to Henshaw's Asylum, and not least to Mr. Illingworth for working so strenuously in this new departure for their benefit.

18. On December 21st a new Home for blind men was opened in Bradford. The Home is called the Frederick Priestman Home for the Blind to commemorate Mr. Priestman's work amongst the Blind in Bradford for over forty years. The Home is under the management of the Committee of the local Institution, and has been purchased by them, and now takes the place of the old rented Home founded in 1906. The Lord Mayor presided at the opening ceremony, which was performed by Mr. Priestman, who gave a most interesting account of the proposed future developments of the Bradford Institution for the Blind as soon as the war was over, viz., to build new workshops on the land just acquired and quit the present premises.

19. The annual meeting of the North Staffordshire Workshops for the Blind was held on December 1st, when the Bishop of Lichfield presided. The meeting was well attended and very successful. The adoption of the annual report was moved by Alderman Hackney, seconded by the Rev. Prebendary H. V. Stuart, supported by the Bishop in a sympathetic and practical address and carried.

20. An introductory Hebrew Grammar in Braille has been compiled and published, thanks to the energy of the Rev. H. McNeile, who has taken much trouble in getting the grammar edited in a suitable form. We hear from the Rev. T. Barnard that he has now nearly completed Genesis in Hebrew Braille.

21. The following books in Braille have recently been added to the Public Library at Oxford, viz., Ovid's *Metamorphosis*, Book i, Notes on Livy, Books, 21 and 22, and Oman's *England in the 19th Century*.

22. Few persons, even few of those interested in the Blind, know of and fully realize the quiet, unostentatious and valuable work carried on by the British and Foreign Bible Society, 146, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C., in the provision of Scriptures for the Blind in both Braille and Moon types. The whole Bible is available in English in 39 volumes, and each volume is sold at the nominal price of 1/-. The Society is prepared to provide one volume a year free to any blind person who is too poor to purchase one, and who is recommended by some Minister of Religion. The Society issues a most interesting monthly record of its work entitled "The Bible in the World," and a paragraph in one of its numbers states :

"It is gratifying to learn that three Welsh ladies, who desire to remain anonymous, have promised to provide funds for making the necessary plates with which to print the whole of the Welsh Old Testament in Braille type for the blind. Mr. David Morgan, of Cardiff, has undertaken to defray the cost of doing the same for all the books of the New Testament. By means of these generous gifts, the complete Welsh Bible will now be printed and published in Braille type by our Society. Apart, however, from the initial expense of making the plates, each of the thirty-nine volumes will cost the Society from 2/- to 3/-, and will be sold for 1/-. The whole of the Scriptures will thus be brought within reach of the Welsh-speaking blind."

The following editions in embossed type for the sightless—representing thirty-five different languages—have either been published by the Bible Society, or their circulation has been aided by grants of copies, free, or at greatly reduced prices.

Arabic: about half the Bible—Moon. Isaiah, S. Matthew, St. Mark, Acts, 1 and 2 Corinthians—Contracted Braille. Psalms, St. Mark—Uncontracted Braille. Armenian (Modern): St. John—Moon. St. Luke—Braille. Armeno-Turkish: St. Matthew,

Sermon on the Mount—Moon. Batta (Toba): St. Luke—Moon and Braille. Bengali: Sermon on the Mount—Moon. St. Mark—Oriental Braille. Chinese, Mandarin: New Testament—Hankow Braille. St. Matthew, St. Mark—Tsincheo Braille. St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, St. John—Union Braille. Chinese, North Mandarin: St. Mark—Moon. Chinese, Amoy: St. Matthew—Roman character. Ephesians—Braille. Chinese, Canton; St. Matthew, St. Mark—Braille. Chinese, Foochow: Genesis, St. Luke, St. John, Acts, Romans—Braille. Chinese, Ningpo: Psalms, St. Mark, St. Luke—Moon. Chinese, Shanghai: Sermon on the Mount—Moon. Dutch; Genesis, St. Luke, St. John, Acts, Galatians, Ephesians—Moon. St. Luke, St. John—Braille. English: Complete Bible—Moon. Complete Bible—Contracted Braille. St. Mark, St. John—Uncontracted Braille. French: Psalms, St. Luke, St. John, Acts, Romans—Moon. St. Luke—Braille. Gaelic: St. John—Moon. Ganda: St. John, Sermon on the Mount—Braille. German: Genesis, Psalms, Four Gospels, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Epistles of St. John—Moon. St. Matthew, Sermon on the Mount—Braille. Gujarati: Psalms, St. Mark, St. John, Acts, 1 John—Revised Oriental Braille. Hebrew: Genesis—Braille. Hindi: St. John, Acts, Romans, Corinthians—Moon. Psalms, St. Luke, St. John—Shirreff Braille. Hungarian: St. Matthew—Braille. Italian: St. Mark, Epistles of St. Peter and St. John—Moon. St. Mark—Braille. Japanese: Four Gospels, Acts, Sermon on the Mount—Moon. Malayalam: Jonah—Braille. St. John—Revised Oriental Braille. Marathi: St. Mark—Oriental Braille. Psalms, St. Mark, St. Luke, St. John, Acts—Revised Oriental Braille. Nyanja: St. Luke—Braille. Polish: St. Luke, Braille. Russian: St. John, Sermon on the Mount—Moon. Sinhalese: St. Mark—Revised Oriental Braille. Spanish: St. Mark, St. John—Moon. Four Gospels—Braille. St. Luke—Revised Braille. Swedish: Ten Books of the O.T., St. John, Ephesians—Moon. Tamil: St. Mark, St. Luke, St. John—Moon. Psalms, Jonah, St. Mark—Oriental Braille. St. Mark, St. John—Revised

Oriental Braille. Telugu: Jonah, St. John—Oriental Braille. St. Matthew, St. John, Psalms—Revised Oriental Braille. Urdu: St. Matthew, St. Luke, St. John—Moon. Jonah, St. Mark—Oriental Braille. St. Mark—Revised Oriental Braille. Psalms, St. Matthew, St. Luke, St. John—Shirreff Braille. Welsh: Genesis, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, Some Books of the N.T.—Moon. St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, St. John, Acts, Colossians—Braille.

23. The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the oldest of the Church Societies, founded in 1698, has, at the request of the Lord Bishop of Southwark, taken up this year the work of providing Church Literature for the Blind.

A sum of £50 has been granted from the General Funds of the Society, and a similar sum has been subscribed, so far, for this special work.

Naturally the proposals, at present, are on a modest scale, and no attempt is being made to rival the admirable work done by existing Institutions.

It is felt, however, that there is room for a special development in the field of Anglican Church Literature, and that S.P.C.K.—as the Church Publishing Society—is the natural body to make itself responsible for this branch of the work.

The first task it is setting itself to fulfil is the provision of parts of the Prayer-book in a number of small pocket volumes.

Thus the Psalms are being prepared in thirty daily portions.

Besides this, some good devotional works have been chosen as a first list, and will be issued with all possible speed.

The stereotyping is entrusted to the Braille Printing House at the Royal Asylum for the Blind, Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

24. Last November, a new monthly magazine in Braille was published entitled "The Journal of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses." The price is 3d. each copy, by post 4d. The magazine is published at the National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, London, W.

25. A performance of Bach's Christmas Oratorio was given in Oxford last month, and the *Oxford Times* has the following remarks in regard to it:—Miss Cissie Payne, the soprano soloist, has a voice of singular sweetness and purity. She was heard to advantage in the duets "Lord, Thy Mercy," and "'Tis Well Thy Name, O Lord," which she sang with Mr. Frederick Ranalow. The fact that Miss Payne, being blind, had to memorise both words and music was in itself a remarkable feat, and added to the pathos of her singing.

THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

Western Counties Union. A meeting of the Committee was held on Friday, November 19th, at the Workshops for the Blind, Museum Avenue, Bristol. The chair was taken by Mr. F. Richardson Cross. In addition to the Union Committee, members of the local Committee of the Royal School of Industry for the Blind were present. A full report of work was read by the Organising Secretary, Mrs. Vere Stead, particulars about each of the six counties being given. Amongst other subjects fully discussed were occupations for the Blind, disposal of work, literature, and the Blind Soldier. Several additions have been made to the list of Honorary District Representatives. With regard to Finance, it was noted that the War tended to increase expenses and curtail income. The same sad cause is interfering with plans made for the extension of work.

North of England Union. The quarterly meeting of this Union was held on December 13th at the Homes for the Blind, Preston, when Lt.-Col. Jolly, V.D., Chairman of the Union, presided. Miss Sadgrove, Organising Secretary, submitted her report for the past quarter, which shewed that she had paid thirty visits to places since the meeting held in September, and had met the members of the Northern Counties Poor Law Committee on behalf of the mentally defective Blind. Many cases outside Institutions had been helped, and several pensions

obtained. The annual meeting is to be held on March 21st, at York, when the Lord Mayor will preside, and an address will be given by Mr. Henry Stainsby.

Metropolitan Union. Meetings of the Committee have been held on October 2nd, December 4th, and January 8th. It has been decided that during the period of the War the Committee shall meet every other month instead of monthly. The annual meeting has been fixed for the morning of Saturday, March 4th. Miss Dorothy Jones has been appointed Organising Secretary in the room of Miss Bennett, who resigned on her marriage in October.

In connection with this Union, a most successful meeting was held on November 26th, at the Old Rectory, Hatfield, by the kind invitation of the Venerable the Archdeacon of St. Albans and the Hon. Mrs. Kenneth Gibbs, for the purpose of forming a Hertfordshire Society for the Blind. Miss Emery, Hon. Sec. of the Eastern Union, was the chief speaker and explained the work of the Unions. At the meeting it was resolved to form a Hertfordshire Society for the Blind, with a General Committee consisting of a Chairman, Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and all the Hon. Representatives, with power to appoint an Executive Committee. A County Fund was started of which Mr. Cecil Parr has kindly consented to act as Treasurer *pro tem.* The Chairman *pro tem.* is the Archdeacon of St. Albans.

THE ROYAL DUNDEE INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

By Mr. Colin Macdonald, Manager.

The Dundee Institution for the Blind was founded just fifty years ago. The Blind in the City had not been altogether neglected prior to that date. For many years some provision was made to aid both children and adult persons afflicted with loss of sight, and a few years before the Institution was founded

a Missionary Agency, supported by contributions, was in existence. As far back as 1840, a Fund was established for the benefit of blind persons of four favoured names—Webster, Speid, Watt, and Johnston. One of the Trustees of the Fund, Mr. James Guthrie Davidson, finding in the administration of the charity how unfortunate the limitation of its advantages to these names was, superadded to the original Fund £5,000, which was afterwards raised to £6,000 by a legacy which he bequeathed. The interest of the Fund has ever since been annually applied in annuities to the adult Blind and in educating blind boys and girls. The Fund, which is known as the Webster and Davidson Mortification for the Blind, now amounts to about £16,000. In the Trust Deed creating this Fund, a condition was inserted that as soon as there was established in Dundee an Institution for the Blind those young persons who derived benefit from it should be sent to that Institution to receive education and industrial training. It was felt that the operations of the educational section were too limited, and that more systematic and definite work should be undertaken on behalf of the class. Their education and training in handicrafts was of first importance. The idea was, by general education, to widen their mental outlook, which had been so grievously narrowed by the loss of sight, and give them an interest in life, which would, to some extent, soften and brighten their lot, and by training in handicrafts to enable them to be to some extent self-supporting. The work was taken up by a Committee of prominent citizens, and the first formal meeting was held on February 2nd, 1865, when it was decided to provide an Institution for the education and industrial training of the blind, and the following minute was unanimously adopted:—

“ In the opinion of this meeting it is desirable and expedient to provide for the earliest possible establishment in Dundee of an Institution for the Education and Industrial Training of the Blind, and that the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee farther to consider the matter—to make inquiry as to a suitable building or site for the Institution, and as to the

probable cost of providing and maintaining it—and generally to do what they should consider necessary to give effect to the wishes of this meeting, and to report to a future meeting when they find it desirable, viz.:—

Messrs. FRANCIS MOLISON,
 Dr. WATSON,
 J. WESTON MILN,
 G. H. NICOLL,
 W. O. DALGLEISH,
 THOMAS BELL,
 JAMES G. ORCHAR,
 WILLIAM WRONGHAM, and
 PATRICK ANDERSON."

Mr. Francis Molison, Chairman of the Committee, who had always taken a warm interest in the Blind, shortly thereafter purchased and presented Dallfield House and property at a cost of £1,150 to the Committee, and also contributed liberally towards the alteration of the buildings into workshops and the equipment of the establishment with the necessary plant and appliances. In 1869 the Institution was fairly launched, and its objects were defined as follows:—

(1) To give education and industrial training to the juvenile blind.

(2) To provide employment for adult blind persons, and to supplement their earnings from the Charitable Funds to such an extent as will put them beyond the necessity of applying for parochial relief.

Basket-making and mattress-making were the first trades introduced, and a number of blind lads came to receive instruction in these.

In the training of the blind workers and in finding a market for their products the Management found great difficulty at the outset, and the public were slow to recognise that financial backing was necessary to the success of the enterprise. It is universally admitted that the heavy handicap of blindness reduces the earning capacity of the worker as compared with

sighted tradesmen, and the augmentation of his wages therefore becomes a necessity.

Subscriptions and donations from the generous public were appealed for, and a blind man was employed as a collector, who succeeded to a large extent in enlisting public support.

It appears from the first Report and Financial Statement of the Directors issued in 1871, that fifteen blind persons were employed in the workshops, and six blind children were being educated in the school. From this time the work went steadily forward, and owing very much to the personality of the blind collector who was constantly advertising the Institution, the public interest was aroused, and increased patronage given to the blind workers' products. Several new branches of industry were gradually introduced, and in 1881 the number of blind workers had increased to forty. Various remodellings and extensions of the original premises had to be made from time to time to meet the requirements of the Blind, and it now again became necessary to contemplate a further extension. In view, however, of the unsatisfactory locality in which the Institution was situated, and which so much militated against its full development—being in an inaccessible part of the city, and largely concealed from the observation of the public—the Directors hesitated to spend money on improving the existing establishment.

It was felt that with more central and commodious premises the usefulness of the Institution might be still further increased. This fact having been made known, Mrs. Molison, of Errol Park, widow of the founder, who had watched over its progress, and proved herself a true and staunch friend by many acts of well-timed liberality, announced that she would present entirely new premises to the Trustees of the Institution. The site on which the Institution now stands was selected by her, and Mr. Alexander Johnston, a well-known local Architect, one of the Directors of the Institution, was entrusted with the preparation of plans for the new buildings.

Unfortunately, the generous donor did not live to see the realisation of her beneficent gift, having died in 1884. The

buildings were completed in 1885, the total cost being about £10,000, and formally presented by Sir William Ogilvy Dalgleish, Bart., President of the Institution, and son-in-law of Mrs. Molison, who, along with his wife, Lady Ogilvy Dalgleish, had taken a most sympathetic and practical interest in the progress and development of the Institution since its foundation.

The new situation of the Institution and the extended premises almost at once justified the change. It had entered on a new career of usefulness, and took a prominent place amongst the Institutions of the City. An increased business began to be done, and the number of inmates was constantly being added to. So much was this the case, that in a few years a further extension was found necessary.

As indicating the difference that has taken place since then, and especially after the new premises were opened in 1885, I submit the following comparison:—

Number employed.		In School.	Wages paid.			Turnover.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1871	15	6 ($\frac{1}{2}$ year)	153	9	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	479	17	8
1885	53	10	1,310	0	1	3,767	2	11
1915	78	16	2,960	2	0	9,897	3	1

In 1906 a new gymnasium was erected, equipped with the modern apparatus, and at the same time several new class-rooms and a technical workshop were added. This extension, which cost £850, was defrayed by a number of friends of the Institution.

The new premises are attached to the residential boarding house where blind children coming from country districts and adult blind women employed in the workshops are boarded. A Ladies' Committee, under the Presidency of Lady Ogilvy Dalgleish, forms a valuable auxiliary to the Directorate in conducting the internal affairs of the boarding house.

In 1912, through the generosity of the President, Sir William Ogilvy Dalgleish, Bart., the entire premises, including the boarding house, were fitted up with a complete installation of electric light, and the steam power used in driving the machinery was replaced by electric motors. In the following

year Mr. R. B. Sharp, one of the Vice-Presidents, generously supplied a new steam heating installation.

The following is a list of the industries engaged in and the numbers employed in each :—

1. Basket Makers	...	10	8. Mat and Ships' Fender Makers	...	6
2. Brush Makers	...	11	9. Firewood Chopping and Bundling	...	16
3. Mattress Makers	...	6	10. Fire Lighter Makers	...	5
4. Upholsterers	...	3	11. Bedding Purifying Department	...	5
5. Machine and Hand Sewers	...	8	12. Travellers and Collectors	...	4
6. Hosiery	...	2			—
7. Chair Caners	...	2			78
					—

Of these, fifty-six are men and twenty-two are women, including a number of apprentices.

In most of the departments wages are paid at Trades Union rates, to which, when necessary, a supplement of from 1/- to 4/- per week is added. In other branches piece work rates have been adopted by the Directors, by which a fair wage may be earned, and in the unskilled departments a graduated wage is paid according to ability. The average payments made to capable workers in the various departments are as under :—

Basket Makers	...	...	From 20/- to 25/-
Brush Makers	...	...	„ 16/- to 18/-
Mattress Makers and Upholsterers	...	...	„ 18/- to 25/-
Mat and Fender Makers...	...	...	„ 18/- to 25/-
Unskilled Branches (Men)	...	...	„ 15/- to 25/-
Women Workers	...	...	„ 10/- to 12/6

The operations of the Institution are chiefly confined to the counties of Forfar, Perth, and the north-east of Fifeshire. The numbers coming from each district are given below :—

City of Dundee	...	...	...	58
Forfarshire	...	...	...	12
Perthshire	...	...	...	13
Fifeshire	...	...	...	5
Other Counties	...	...	...	6
				—

A gratifying feature in connection with the Institution is that, at present, all the blind within the sphere of the operations capable of being industrially trained, or of receiving education, are provided for in the Institution.

The average annual income of the Institution is about £1,499 16s. od., and is derived from the following sources :—

	£	s.	d.
(1) Endowments	453	4	9
(2) Subscriptions and Donations ...	457	16	0
(3) Education Trustees and Parish Councils	492	8	9
(4) Government Education Grant ...	96	6	6
	£1,499	16	0

In 1913 the Institution sustained a grievous loss through the death of Sir William Ogilvy Dalgleish, its President. Sir William was present at the meeting held on 2nd February, 1865, when it was resolved to establish workshops for the blind in Dundee, and up till his death took, as has been already stated, a deep and personal interest in the work, and contributed most liberally to its various schemes. On the death of Mr. Francis Molison, of Errol Park, the founder, Sir William was appointed President, and occupied the office for the long period of thirty-six years.

In 1914 Mr. W. C. Leng, of Highfield, Newport, who had been a Director since 1903, was unanimously appointed President in succession to Sir William. Mr. Leng has always taken a warm and personal interest in the work of the Institution and its inmates, and the appointment heartily commended itself to the inmates, subscribers, and the public generally.

On 10th July, 1914, when the King and Queen visited Dundee, their Majesties honoured the Institution by graciously receiving a loyal Address from the inmates, which was presented in their name by Mr. Colin Macdonald, the Manager. Their Majesties evinced much interest in the blind workers, including the school children, who gave an exhibition of their various industries on the terrace in front of the main entrance. The

King made enquiries regarding the work carried on in the Institution, and expressed his own and the Queen's pleasure that his blind subjects should take part in their welcome to the City. His Majesty then handed to the Manager a reply to the inmates' Address, which was in the following terms :—

Their Majesties Repty.

The Queen and I are touched by the affectionate welcome you have given us on your own behalf and on behalf of the Directors and Officials of this Institution.

I trust that I need not assure you how deeply I take to heart the conditions of those of my subjects who are so grievously handicapped in the race, with what sympathy I view their noble endeavours, in spite of their affliction, to play their part as citizens of their Empire, and how gladly I welcome the generous labours of their more fortunate fellows to assist them in whatever way towards this end.

I thank you heartily for your good wishes and expressions of loyalty, and I am assured that I have nowhere more devoted subjects than the inmates of this Institution.

ADDRESS OF THE INMATES REFERRED TO.

To their Most Gracious Majesties King George the Fifth and Queen Mary.

May it Please Your Majesties,

We, the inmates of the Dundee Institution for the Blind, in common with our fellow citizens, rejoice in Your Majesties' visit to this City, and we esteem, with feelings of unmingled satisfaction and pride, the high honour Your Majesties have conferred on us and those whom we represent by most graciously consenting to receive an Address.

The Institution was founded in 1865 through the generosity of the late Mr. and Mrs. Francis Mollison of Errol Park, and the deep personal interest and practical support shown by them has been continued by their daughter, Lady Ogilvy Dalgleish, and her late husband, Sir William Ogilvy Dalgleish, Bart., who for the long period of thirty-six years occupied the position of President, and whose recent death we so deeply deplore.

The objects of the Institution are — (1) To give education and industrial training to the juvenile blind: (2) to provide employment for adult blind persons, so as to enable them to attain honourable independence; and (3) where necessary, to supplement their earnings from charitable sources.

From a very small beginning the Institution has developed into a large industrial and educational establishment, and its operations have been of incalculable benefit to the Blind in the counties of Forfar, Perth, and Fife.

All suitable blind persons who have applied have been trained and educated, and these, but for the help afforded, would have been a burden not only to themselves and their friends, but also probably to the community. The number at present enjoying the benefit of the Institution is ninety-seven (seventy-eight adults and nineteen juveniles).

The great interest created in the cause of the Blind throughout the Empire by your Majesties action in connection with the National Institute for the Blind in London, founded for the printing of embossed books, will greatly help the cause of literature for the sightless. The chief need, however, of by far the greater proportion of Your Majesties' blind subjects is the provision for employment, which, with adequate remuneration, will enable them to become self-sustaining and independent members of Society.

Your blind subjects throughout the country learned with a thrill of gratitude that their cause is at present receiving the consideration of Parliament, and they earnestly hope that a Bill in their interest to provide for employment and maintenance may at an early date become law.

On behalf of all our blind associates we beg leave to thank Your Majesties for your gracious presence here to-day, and to crave your acceptance of this our humble Address. The Directors and Officials desire to associate themselves with this expression of loyalty and devotion to Your Majesties.

On behalf of Directors and Officials, On behalf of the Inmates,

(Sgd.) W. C. LENG,
President.

(Sgd.) COLIN MACDONALD,
Manager.

10th July, 1914.

A year later the Institution having attained its Jubilee, it occurred to the Directors that in view of the interest already shown by His Majesty in the cause of the Blind, permission might be asked to use the word "Royal" in the title of the Institution. It was felt that Royal recognition of the work carried on for half a century amongst the Blind of the City and district would consolidate the public interest and secure for the Institution more extensive support. The Directors accordingly approached the Secretary for Scotland with this view, and made application through him for His Majesty's permission to use the title "Royal." The Directors of the Institution, the citizens of Dundee, and particularly the Blind themselves, learned with extreme satisfaction that His Majesty had been graciously pleased to accede to the Directors' request. This intimation was conveyed in the following letter, addressed to Mr. W. C. Leng, Highfield, President of the Institution, from Mr. McKinnon Wood, Secretary for Scotland:—

Scottish Office, Whitehall.

25th August, 1915.

Sir,—“I have had the honour to lay before the King the application of the Directors of the Dundee Institution for the Blind soliciting permission to use the word “Royal” in the title of the Institution, and I have the satisfaction of informing you that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to accede to the request of the Directors, and has commanded that the Institution be designated “*The Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind.*”

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) R. MCKINNON WOOD.

The *Dundee Advertiser* made an appreciative reference to the honour conferred in a leading article as follows:—

“The many friends of the Blind in this district will be gratified by the announcement that the King has been graciously pleased to command that the local Institution for the Blind shall be designated the Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind. This honour gives the charity

official rank as one of the senior charitable establishments of the city. Every one acquainted with the Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind and with similar institutions in other places knows that it ranks very high both in the quality and scope of its organisations and in the benefits it procures for its beneficiaries.

This Royal dignity is gratifying to the Directors as a recognition of the work that they have done for the Blind and an encouragement to them to aspire to yet higher things. Nor is it less pleasing to the blind workers themselves; the King has, both by his visit to the Institution last year and by this gracious command, shown how deep is his sympathy with the patience and perseverance of his blind subjects in their effort to obtain for themselves a position of some independence. The fortitude of these workers only requires to be known to make this sympathy general.

In view of the honour now conferred, the Directors may consider it desirable to take some steps to strengthen the financial resources of the Institution, and in such an undertaking they will be able to count upon the assistance of friends in the whole area for which they work, From an examination of recent reports of the Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind any one can see for himself that the calls upon it have grown faster than its finances. In great part it is an industrial establishment and unless it moves with the times it could not hold its position in the market. But to move with the times means constant outlays in various directions. The equipment which was first-class thirty years ago would to-day be out of date were expenditure not made upon it from time to time. The blind workers are, of course, severely handicapped in their competition with sighted workers and with machinery. As machinery develops this handicap tends to become greater, and the supplement to their wages payable from charitable sources must be larger if a living wage is to be maintained. Considerations such

as these lead us to think that the community might show its gratification for the granting of this Royal honour by a liberal addition to the financial strength of the Institution. Any one disposed to help in this direction can now be assured that this work can bear the test of official scrutiny, and that the result of such scrutiny has been the stamping of it with the hall-mark of Royal approval."

In concluding these notes, it only remains to state that the relations subsisting between the Directors, the Management, and the workers are most excellent. The administration is conducted with the utmost smoothness, and the Institution stands high in the esteem of the Community which it serves. Within the limits of its resources, it performs admirable service for the Blind of the district, and it is in a position to render most fruitful any further aid or suggestions which may be forthcoming as the result of the labours of the Departmental Committee, which is now considering the circumstances and requirements of the Blind.

FOR KING AND COUNTRY.

In the list given below of those who have joined the colours or are "doing their bit," we have been compelled to give the names of only those who were directly connected with Institutions or Societies for the Blind when the war broke out. If we had given the names of former masters and clerks, and of the sons or other near relatives, the list would, indeed, have been very long, as for instance at Belfast in addition to the list given, no less than forty-eight relatives of the employees have joined the colours.

Mention, however, must be made, and our warm congratulations tendered to Mr. Vickers, a member of the Committee of the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, whose son, Captain C. G. Vickers, has been awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery in the Hohenzollern Redoubt engagement, and to Mr. Warren, F.C.T.B., Hon. Secretary of the same Institution, whose only son, Captain J. C. Warren, has been

awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in the same engagement.

Our sincere sympathy is with Mr. J. H. Hewitt, of the Belfast Workshops for the Blind, as his second son, Lieut. E. H. Hewitt, of the 4th King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment, was reported missing (believed to be killed) on the 16th of June last. Mr. Hewitt's third son, Lieut. H. M. Hewitt, of the 9th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, is at the front, and his youngest son, 2nd Lieut. W. A. Hewitt, is in the same regiment.

At the Royal Institution for the Blind at Birmingham, all the male sighted teachers have enlisted, and the school staff now consists entirely of female teachers, with the exception of Mr. Platt, Mr. Myers, and Mr. Priest, who are blind.

BELEAST—Association for the Employment of the Industrious Blind, 28, Royal Avenue.

Barrett, David (Junr., Salesman), 30th Reserve Park, Army Service Corps.

Hall, William (Brush-maker), killed, 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Rifles.

McGladdery, Thos. (Clerk), R.E. Signalling Company.

Morgan, Andrew (Firewood Department), 17th (Reserve) Royal Irish Rifles (discharged).

BIRMINGHAM—Royal Institution for the Blind, Edgbaston.

Bloomfield, G. W. (Assistant Master), Flying Corps.

Edkins, H. E. (Clerk), 1st City Battalion (Birmingham).

Hope, F., Driver, Army Service Corps.

Landers, J. (Assistant Master), 3rd City Battalion (Birmingham).

Morton, Victor (Clerk), R.A.M.C.

Robinson, Sydney (Headmaster), 17th Royal Warwicks.

Thurman, A. G. (Clerk), Army Service Corps.

Turner, H. A. (Assistant Master), Royal Navy.

BRIGHTON—School for the Blind, Eastern Road.

Coxhead, L., Private, R.A.M.C., 132nd Field Ambulance.

Hughes, J. S. (Headmaster, Army Ordnance Corps.

Mills, M. G., Corporal, R.A.M.C., 132nd Field Ambulance.

Piper, A. C. Corporal, R.A.M.C., 132nd Field Ambulance.

DUBLIN—Molyneux Asylum, Leeson Park.

Barker, Rev. E. L. B., M.A., T.C.D. (Assistant Chaplain),
Chaplain to Forces.

DUNDEE—Institution for the Blind, Magdalen Green.

Brown, Archibald (Mat Foreman), H.M.S. Cæsar, R.N.V.R.

Morgan, Harry (Foreman, Bedding Department), Hood Battalion
Royal Naval Brigade.

EDINBURGH—Royal Blind Asylum, 38, Nicolson Street.

Stephens, George (Basket-maker), 3rd Royal Scots (killed in
action).

FULWOOD—Homes for the Blind, Preston.

Jolly, Lt.-Colonel, V.D. (Secretary) O. C. West Lancs. National
Reserve No. 3 District Recruiting for Supernumerary Com-
panies 4th Battalion Royal N. Lancs. Regiment.

Jones, Robert (Teacher of Harmony), Sergeant, 11th Gordon
Highlanders.

Phillips, R. C. (Headmaster), Private, Honourable Artillery
Company.

GLASGOW—Royal Asylum for the Blind, 100, Castle Street.

Faulds, A. G. (Member of Committee), Lieutenant, R.A.M.C.

Fergus, Freeland (Member of Committee), Major, R.A.M.C. (T).

Longmuir, J. (Physical Drill Instructor), Staff-Sergeant, 3rd
Gordon Highlanders.

McQuillan, Frank (Basket-maker), Private, Royal Scots.

Turnbull, James (Basket-maker), Lance-Corporal, Royal Scots
Fusiliers.

Watson, David (Member of Committee), Captain, R.A.M.C. (T).

Wright Thomson, H. (Member of Committee), Lieut.-Colonel,
R.A.M.C. (T).

GORLESTON-ON-SEA—East Anglian Schools.

Bagge, W. J. (Master), Public Schools Battalion.

Edden, R. P. S. (Master), Lancs. Fusiliers.

LEATHERHEAD—Royal School for the Blind.

Barnes, A. (Tailor), East Surrey Regiment.

Carter, A. W. (Clerk), Royal West Surrey (The Queens).

Cooke, W. (Gardener), National Reserve.

Field, J. J. (Brush-master), British Red Cross.

Fowler, J. H. (Clerk), Army Service Corps.

Hill, Major F. C. T. (the late) (Member of Committee), York and Lancaster Regiment.

Miller, J. (Gardener), Munitions.

Newell, W. (Stoker), East Surrey.

Palmer, A. E. (Basket-maker), British Red Cross Society.

Smith, A. J. (Stoker), Royal West Surrey (The Queens).

Smith, W. (Clerk), East Surrey.

Strutt, C. (Pupil—Blind), Army Service Corps.

Taylor, A. (Gardener), East Surrey.

Walker, J. (Clerk), East Surrey.

LEEDS—United Institution for Blind and Deaf and Dumb,
Albion Street.

Ford, William (Brush Department), 1st W. Riding Royal Field Artillery.

Hesling, Joseph (Office Youth), R.E., Telegraph Section.

Hugh, Mac (Basket Department), discharged, illness.

Lee, J. W. (Brush Department), Kitcheners, Royal Field Artillery.

Little, George (Brush Department), 7th Leeds Rifles (killed).

Stevenson, Thomas (Basket Department), West Yorkshires.

LIVERPOOL—Schools for the Blind.

Davies, L. M. (Assistant Master), Private, 1st Manchester Regiment (Garrison).

Imlach, H. T. (Dentist), Sergeant, 6th Liverpool's Rifles.

Jones, C. V. H. (Assistant Master), Lance-Corporal, 2/3rd East Anglian Field Ambulance.

Jones, S. S. (Assistant Master), Lieutenant, 15th Middlesex Regiment.

Owen, John, M.D., M.R.C.P. (Hon. Physician), Captain, Royal Engineers.

Pattison, R. (Attendant), Private, Northumberland Fusiliers (wounded and prisoner).

Shipsides, William (Tech. Instructor), Sergeant, 5th Liverpool's Rifles.

Walker, A. Nimmo, M.D. (Hon. Surgeon), Major, 69th Field Ambulance, B.E.F.

LONDON—(1) Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, W.

Biggerstaff, J. (Shop Assistant), Mechanical Transport, Army Service Corps.

Gibbons, F. J. (Brush Finisher), Sergeant, "The Rangers."

Spens, A. B. (Member of Council), 2nd Lieutenant, Army Service Corps.

Towse, Captain, V.C. (Member of Council), in France.

Tree, S. W. (Foreman's Assistant), Royal West Kents.

Trustram, W. (Storekeeper), Royal Field Artillery.

Woolmer, J. (Packer), Middlesex Regiment.

(2). L.C.C. School, Linden Lodge, 26, Bolingbroke Grove,
Wandsworth Common, S.W.

Evans, E. (Assistant Master), Sergeant, Honourable Artillery Company.

(3) National Institute for the Blind, 224-8, Great Portland
Street, W, .

Absell, A., A.B., R.N.V.R., Anti-Aircraft Corps.

Bartlett, C. F. N., Lieut.-Colonel, 8th Royal Berks.

Bell, E. I., Major, 3rd County of London (Sharpshooters)
Yeomanry T.F.

Curtis, L. J. Petty Officer, R.N.A.S. Armoured Car Section.

Cutts, R. J., Private, Army Cyclist Corps.

Edwards, C. W. E., A.B., R.N.V.R., Anti-Aircraft Corps.

Green, G., Private, 24th County of London, The Queen's T.F.

Hull, W., Sergeant, Army Service Corps.

Orr, Gerald L. P., Captain, 5th Bedfords T.F.

Osborne, T. L., Private, 3rd Coldstreams.

Saltmarsh, F., Private, 1st Middlesex. Lost his right arm and is
now back at the Institute as liftman.

Wood, J. H., Private, 21st Middlesex.

(3a) The Moon Society.

Coppard, E. J., Private, 2nd Company, 12th Royal Sussex.

Newnham, C, Driver, 1/3 Battalion R.E., Home Counties
Field Company.

Poiney, H. F., Private, 2nd Company 12th Royal Sussex.

Woolard, J. S., Private, 1st Section, 4th Company, Royal National
Reserve.

(4) Incorporated National Lending Library for the Blind,
125, Queen's Road, Bayswater

Chew, Arthur (Head Packer and Library Attendant), 25th City
of London Regiment (Cyclists).

Gouge, A. R. (Foreman Packer, Caretaker and Library Attendant),
Acting Sergt.-Major, late Royal Marine Artillery,
attached Anti-Aircraft Service.

Wadley, W. A. (Assistant Librarian), Private, No. 4 Company,
13th Royal Fusiliers.

Whittall, G., (Packer and Library Attendant), Private, 4th
Company, King's Royal Rifles.

Wise, Arthur (Packer and Library Attendant), Private, C Com-
pany, 10th Middlesex.

(5) Royal Normal College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

Black, H. D., Munitions, 24 hours a week.

Campbell, Guy M. (Principal), Senior Platoon Commander of
Upper Norwood Volunteer Training Corps.

(6) School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage.

Ayling, George (Porter), 21st Middlesex.

Gardner, G. D. (Professor of Music), 2nd Lieutenant, 5th
Suffolks.

Laing, R. E. (Assistant Master), Honourable Artillery Company.

Spiers, Lawrence (Clerk), 7th Royal Fusiliers.

Tucker, William (Assistant Master), attested under Lord Derby's
Scheme.

Wilson, Frederick (Porter), Royal Fusiliers.

(7) Workshops for the Blind of Kent, 49, London Street,
Greenwich, S.E.

Shaw, H. W. (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer), Captain, Kent
Cyclist Battalion, Coast Defence Duty.

Southby, Albert (Porter), Scottish Borderers.

MANCHESTER—Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Old Trafford.

Ashcroft, G. (Carter), Manchester Regiment.

Ashworth, E. (Plumber), Royal Engineers.

Cosslett, E. T. (Assistant Master), Motor Machine Gun Section.

Illingworth, J. Stewart (Tech. Supervisor), 3rd Public Schools
Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, discharged, rheumatism.

Lightfoot, H. B. (Assistant Master), R.A.M.C. (T).

Lloyd, B. D. (Assistant Master), R.A.M.C. (T).

Murray, A. (Porter), Lancs. Fusiliers.

Rowbothom, H. (Joiner), R.A.M.C.

NORWICH—The Blind School, Magdalen Street.

Bell, A. (Shop Assistant, Mat Department), 2/4th Norfolks.

Bradbury, G. (Assistant, Basket Department), 10th Norfolks.

Burman, S. (Shop Assistant, Basket Department), Norfolk Artillery.

Chastney, J. T. (Clerk), 2/4th Norfolks.

Herd, G. (Clerk), 1/3rd East Anglian Field Ambulance.

Howes, E. (Gardener), attested under Lord Derby's Scheme.

Jarrold, G. (Clerk), 1/2nd East Anglian Field Ambulance, died of wounds received in the Dardanelles.

Ronaldson, J. (Bandmaster), 1/4th Norfolks.

NOTTINGHAM—Royal Midland Institution, Chaucer Street.

Barlow, H. (Carter), Sherwood Foresters.

Morley, W. (Carter), Sherwood Foresters.

PLYMOUTH—Blind Institution, North Hill.

Clapham, B. A. (Hon. Secretary), Captain, 4th Essex Regiment.

Wills, H. Cecil (Member of Committee), Captain, 5th Prince of Wales Battalion, Devon Regiment.

SOUTHSEA—Home for the Blind, St. Mary's Hall.

Atterbury, S. (Porter), Royal Naval Reserve.

STOKE-ON-TRENT—School for the Blind, The Mount.

Folker, Dr. H. H. (Ophthalmic Surgeon), R.A.M.C.

Hind, W. (Medical Officer), Colonel, R.F.A.

Smith, Lister S., attested under Lord Derby's Scheme.

Wedgwood, Cecil (Chairman), Major, 8th North Staffords.

WAKEFIELD—Institution for the Blind, 19, Queen Street.

Mackay, Thomas, West Yorkshires.

Goodyear, Major, Recruiting Officer.

WESTBURY-ON-TRYM—Royal School of Industry for the Blind.

Cowan, A. A. (Headmaster), 2nd Lieutenant, Liverpool Scottish.

WORCESTER—College for the Higher Education of the Blind.

Anthony, J. R. (Governor), Lieutenant, 8th Worcesters.

O'Sullivan, T. A. (Assistant Master), Cadet at Sandhurst.

EXTRACTS FROM AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "HOW TO HELP THE BLIND."

By Miss Sadgrove.

In these sad days, with many fresh and increasing calls on our time and resources, we are apt to overlook, if not entirely forget, good works that have been going on quietly and unobtrusively for many years in our midst, and that are still needing support and sympathy. The North of England Union is one of these to which we would call special attention.

During the last five years fourteen new societies have been formed to care for the Blind, mainly in places hitherto unoccupied. In each, blind people have been sought out and visited. In some, young people have been placed in institutions for training—which authorities are very willing to give when a suitable case is brought to their notice, and even older people are sometimes trained with satisfactory results. Boards of Guardians have been approached on behalf of those with insufficient parish relief, elderly women have been sent to homes, applications made to pension funds for those eligible, grants for work material, typewriters made, orders for piano-tuning, chair-caning, and hand and machine knitting obtained. Braille literature has been distributed, and many blind people in outlying places have been visited and advised upon; pupils leaving institutions are notified to the Organising Secretary, who makes a point of going to their homes, when possible, or of writing to local representatives to look after them. All that can be done is done, and will be, to help the Blind in a thoroughly practical manner.

We wish no blind person to be uncared for, but how to care is not always understood. Some people think their duty is done if goods made by the Blind are purchased. Important as that is, something is wanted that money cannot buy, and that is real practical sympathy. There is a right and a wrong way we all know of sympathising—one makes the recipient weak, dependent on others, the other braces and encourages.

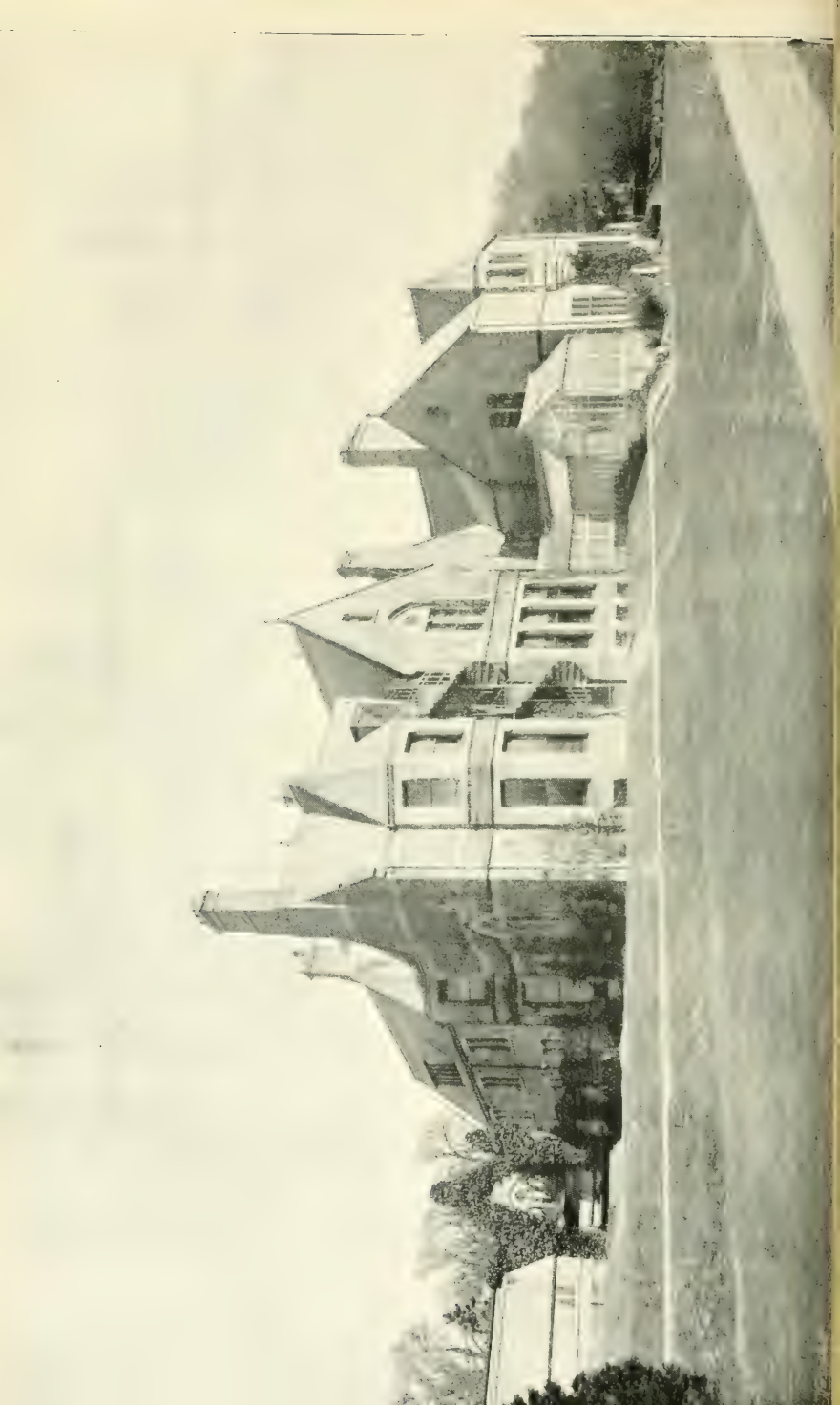
“ After-care ” is much on the lips of those who work for the Blind, and, we may say, it sums up all the work of the Union. We know how much money, time, and thought is spent on education—a visit to our splendidly equipped Blind Schools shows what infinite pains are taken to teach the young people, and here comes in our responsibility—to see that the expensive training given by the State is made use of. The general public is slow to realise the capacity of the Blind for work, and does not always see the bitterness of the return home—to what! Nothing—if there is no one to bring to them the work they have been trained to do.

Blind people want work, not charity. Just as there are many needy sighted people dependent on public charity for bread and butter—so there always will be some blind, but as a whole they are wishful to be self-supporting, and it is our duty to help them. Occupation is good for all, why add the burden of unemployment to that of blindness? Think what it means to have nothing to do—“ no work is the hardest work ”—could we face such a life? We should like to see every blind man and woman going to workshops every day, but till that Utopian state arrives, let us give all the work we can.

“ I always drop a coin into a blind person’s hand ” was once said. Better still, help the hand to earn the coin! Scorn not the man but his calling; give him work when he begs. That is the call of the Blind to-day. “ Give us work,” young blind men and women ask, to help them to become self-supporting members of the community.

Monotony is the deadly enemy of the Blind and sighted alike, and the local Visiting Committees established by the Union have been, and will be, an untold boon to this class of blind—those who have lost their sight in later life—and of which there is such a large proportion to-day in our land.

The foundation-stone of the North of England Union, and of the six Unions that followed in its train, and cover the whole of England to-day—without which no great work has ever stood—is personal interest, an invisible building—and the spire thereof is Hope.



The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 74.

APRIL 20TH, 1916.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. Just on going to press for the January issue we heard with much regret of the death of Mr. Arthur C. Stericker, L.R.A.M., the well-known blind musician, who was Organist and Choirmaster of the United South Free Church, Aberdeen. He began his education at the School for the Blind at York, and from there passed to the Royal Normal College, where he greatly distinguished himself. He worked hard both as a teacher and as a copyist of music. He copied for himself over 2,000 hymns and complete copies of the United Presbyterian Hymnal and the Psalter. He also copied a great many anthems which filled ten large volumes and many other compositions. But he was best known for his system of musical notation, which he contended had many advantages over Braille music, and in later years he copied all his music in "Stericker's system."

2. The Rev. H. J. R. Marston, who was for many years incumbent of Belgrave Chapel, has been appointed rector of East Lydford-with-Wheathill in Somerset. The parish contains a population of about 200. Mr. Marston's son-in-law is a clergyman, and he and his wife have been in Brussels since war

broke out. It was he who administered the midnight Holy Communion to the heroine Edith Cavell just before she was shot.

3. The Rev. G. M. Llewellyn, M.A., B.D., curate-in-charge of Gilfach Goch in Glamorganshire, has been appointed Vicar of Llandow in the same county. The living is in the gift of Jesus College, Oxford.

4. We think our readers may be interested to hear more of the work which Miss Harris Browne is doing among the blind women and girls of the London District.

She took advantage of the opportunity of the great demand for knitted comforts for the troops to make the work done by blind women better known, and was able during the first months of the War to procure large orders for the schools. At the same time she set herself to find out girls living in their own homes who were in need of employment, and to train them to a high standard of efficiency.

She has now twenty-six knitters regularly employed turning out machine and hand work which is as nearly perfect as possible. Up till the end of February their output was 3,680 pairs of socks, besides gloves, mittens, sweaters, scarves, &c., to the number of 250.

None of these girls would have had any chance of employment except as home workers, living as they do, in country villages or in those parts of London where there are, as yet, no workshops for the Blind. The conditions under which they work make it impossible for them to earn high wages, but they have benefited by the regular employment, and been stimulated by the knowledge that they are no longer isolated and a useless burden on their friends and the community, but members of an organization, and doing their share with the rest of us in the nation's time of need. The quickest among the machine workers has earned in the last four months an average of 7s. 1d. per week.

One of the problems to be confronted in any attempt to help the home worker has been her isolation. It was obviously impossible to visit each girl frequently, or even, in some cases, at all. So the somewhat original plan (in dealing with blind women) was conceived of teaching by post the use of Braille, helping to overcome many difficulties.

Wool is sent out in small quantities in order that constant supervision may be exercised and faults corrected at once. All work is paid for as received, at a fixed rate, and, therefore, the girls have no outlay nor anxiety beyond that of turning out good work. They have responded splendidly to the opportunity afforded them, and have reached an even standard of quality in their work which would have seemed unattainable eighteen months ago.

From the first it was resolved to keep the scheme free from the taint of charity, and to make it pay its way. Miss Harris Browne's accounts have been kept with the greatest care, and they show that for every worker employed it has only been necessary to have a floating capital of £2. This sum has covered all outgoings, including cost of training. No allowance has been made for a Manager's salary or for office rent. But on the other hand the work has been sold as nearly as possible at cost price, since there was no wish to make War profits out of the venture.

The monthly output is now about 250 pairs of socks. I understand that in the first two months of the year 785 pairs have been sent out, and there are now on the books orders which will keep the girls busy until the end of March.

The outlay involved is so small, and the success has been so marked, that we hope to hear of other attempts on similar lines to aid the home worker, and, it may be added, to increase production by making use of labour which would otherwise be wasted.

5. The eighth election to the Fawcett Memorial Scholarship will take place in July next. Candidates must send in applications not later than Friday, the 12th May next.

The Scholarship, which is of the annual value of £50, will be awarded to a deserving blind person, or person so far deprived of sight as to need to use his or her fingers for reading, and will be tenable for a maximum period of four years, at any of the Universities of the United Kingdom, including Women's Colleges at such Universities.

Candidates must be between the ages of seventeen and twenty-three at the time of election. Forms of application, and further particulars, can be obtained of the Clerk to the Cloth-workers' Company, Mincing Lane, London, E.C.

Qualified and eligible candidates may be required to attend for Examination in June, of which due notice will be given to them.

6. The next examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind will be held on June 6th and 7th at the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind, London, by kind permission of the Committee. There are 25 candidates.

7. The Examinations of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships tenable at the Royal Normal College, are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

8. At the examination held last March by the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, there were 201 candidates, of whom five were blind, and all passed, two with distinction. Mr. Percy L. Way, F.R.C.O., headed the list, and Mr. Norman Webb took sixth place. Both men are to be highly congratulated on such satisfactory results. The blind candidates were trained at the National Institute for the Blind, as well as six blinded soldiers, all of whom passed the first part of the examination in anatomy and physiology.

9. An interesting ceremony took place on March 24th at 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, the new buildings of the National Library of the Blind, when H.R.H. The Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, as President of the Library, paid an informal visit. There were present to meet Her Royal Highness, Lord Shaw of Dunfermline, Sir Hedley le Bas, Mrs. Dauckwerts, Miss E. W. Austin (Secretary), and Messrs. J. B. Lawford, J. W. Western, and H. J. Wilson (Deputy Chairman). The Princess went all over the new building, and was much interested in all she saw. In the Boardroom Lord Shaw made a short speech stating that the Carnegie Trustees had given to the Library thirty copies of twenty-eight works of history, poetry and fiction, at a cost of over £2,000, the new buildings which cost £9,000, and also £1,500 towards the necessary furnishing, and £1,500 towards the reduction of ground rent, which now stood at only £130. After referring to the work of the Carnegie Trustees and to the priceless value of the Library to the Blind and paying a well-deserved tribute to Miss Austin for the active part she had taken in the new development and extension of the Library, Lord Shaw, on behalf of the Carnegie Trustees, handed over the new building to the Princess, President of the Library. Her Royal Highness replied: "I am intensely gratified to hear of your work, and I thank you for this handsome and munificent gift. Your gift will be deeply appreciated by the poor sufferers, and I can hardly imagine anything more beautiful or more humane, or more helpful to them."

The new building gives ample space for the books, also for a reading room and reference library which have never been attempted before.

As far as we know this is the only Library for the Blind in the world that is not a department or branch of an institution with other charitable objects. It has been made free to all blinded soldiers and sailors.

It possesses 23,000 volumes of all classes of Literature, a valuable Music Library of 3,000 volumes and an Esperanto section. The circulation is 300 volumes per day. Arrange-

ments have been made for a regular exchange of books with the Library for the Blind in Paris.

An appeal for £20,000, signed by the Princess, has been issued to meet the increased expenses of the Library in the new buildings.

It is hoped that the move to 18, Tufton Street, will be completed by the end of this month.

10. A blind lady has recently died and left the complete Old Testament in Lucas type. The editor will be glad to know of any blind person, who still reads that type and would like to have these volumes, as a gift.

11. In connection with the Prize Essay Competition for the gold medal of the College of Teachers of the Blind, only one essay was received in 1915, and as in the opinion of the examiners, it did not attain the standard deemed necessary, no medal was awarded.

The Committee of the College having decided that there shall be no competitions this year, the next competition will not take place until 1917, and the subject will be "The History of the Education of the Blind from 1830 to 1868," instead of 1830 to 1893 as previously announced.

12. The following is an extract from the second annual report for the year 1915 of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, and bears strong witness to the good and necessary work carried on by the National Library for the Blind: "The books for the Blind, which the Committee last year reported had been ordered, have now been printed in large part, and, as explained previously, have been made over to the National Lending Library for the Blind, for dissemination among blind readers under suitable conditions. The acquisition of this large number of extra volumes has strained the already overcrowded space possessed by the National Lending Library in Bayswater. Large and commodious premises have, therefore, recently been obtained by the Library, with the help of the Trust, in Tufton Street, Westminster, and it is hoped that the additional accom-

modation now at their command will enable the authorities of the Library to enter upon an enlarged and more important sphere of usefulness. One of the sad facts for which the present War is responsible is an increase in number of blind persons. The need of a strong library organization for their benefit is, in the opinion of the Committee, a pressing one, and they are glad to think they may, in some measure, have helped to provide for the situation."

In our next number we hope to give a short history of the Library, by Miss E. W. Austin, whose persistent energy, tact, and skill have been largely instrumental in the development and success of this most useful and necessary Institution, and also in securing ideal new premises at 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. The generous gift from the Carnegie Trustees is most opportune, and will be of very great benefit to blind readers.

13. In accordance with arrangements already announced the special article in this number was to have been the history of the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind, written by Mr. T. H. Martin, but when he promised to do this he was Secretary of the School, and as he is now no longer connected with it, he does not feel in the position to write such an article. Mr. J. M. Ritchie, M.A., the recently appointed Superintendent and Secretary was, therefore, approached, and kindly consented to write the article, if its appearance could be deferred until the July number. To this we willingly agreed, knowing how occupied Mr. Ritchie naturally would be just after taking up such an important post with its manifold duties. In order that our readers should not be disappointed in regard to a special article this time we are pleased to state that Mr. W. Robertson, F.E.I.S., House Governor of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, kindly acceded to our request to write his article, which was to have appeared in July, for the current number. Knowing the inconvenience which must have been caused by this re-arrangement, and how particularly busy Mr. Robertson is at this time, we are extremely grateful to him for so willingly filling the breach with his article.

14. A meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind on February 12th, when there were present Miss Garaway, Messrs. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, Martin, A. Pearson, Pine, Ritchie, Stainsby, W. E. Taylor, Thurman, and H. J. Wilson in the Chair.

The Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Campbell and Story wrote regretting their inability to be present.

Copies of the syllabus for 1916 were presented to the members.

The annual report for 1915 was read and slightly amended.

Final arrangements were made for the annual and public meetings on March 4th.

A letter dated January 8th from Mr. H. R. Latimer, Executive Secretary of the Commission on Uniform Type, to the Hon. Registrar of the College, was read, in which Mr. Latimer suggested that "a thoroughly representative" Committee should be appointed in Great Britain to consider certain new proposals in regard to uniform type, and as he especially mentioned the National Institute, the College, and the Association of Teachers of the Blind, the Committee of the College decided to appoint a Sub-Committee of four, viz., Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Mr. Illingworth, and Mr. Stone, to approach the National Institute and the Association of Teachers with a view to consider jointly the question of the formation of such a Committee.

We much regret that in our last number we omitted Mr. Illingworth's name amongst those present at the last meeting of the College.

The annual meeting of the Council of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held on March 4th at 2.30 p.m. at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, when there were present Miss E. W. Austin, Miss Harris Browne, Miss Garaway, Miss Scott, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. G. C. Brown, G. Campbell, Dixson, Illingworth, Pine, Priestley, Dr. Ranger, Ritchie, Lister Smith, Stainsby, Thurman, and H. J. Wilson in the chair. Letters regretting their inability to be present were

read from Mrs. Greg, Miss B. Taylor, Miss Lilley, and Mr. Stone.

The Hon. Registrar having read the annual report of the Committee for 1915 and the audited Statement of Account, it was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Miss M. M. R. Garaway, and resolved that "The Report of the Committee and Financial Statement as read, be received, adopted, and entered upon the minutes, and that copies be forwarded to the President, Vice-Presidents, Officers, Members, Subscribers, and other persons interested in the education of the Blind." The Chairman having stated that one-third of the Committee retire in rotation, and having read out their names it was moved by Dr. Ranger, seconded by Mr. Priestley, and resolved that "Lady Campbell, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, T. H. Martin, A. J. Storey, and W. H. Thurman be, and they are hereby re-elected members of the Committee."

It was moved by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, seconded by Mr. H. W. P. Pine and resolved "That the best thanks of this meeting be presented to the honorary officers for the valuable services rendered during the past year, and that Mr. Henry J. Wilson, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, Dr. A. W. G. Ranger, Mr. Henry Stainsby, and Messrs. Drury, Thurgood, Hatfield and Co. be, and they are hereby re-appointed Chairman, Treasurer, Solicitor, Registrar, and Auditors respectively for the current year."

Miss Garaway moved that an alteration of the Regulations be made to enable certificate holders to become *ipso facto* members of the Council. This was seconded by Miss Austin, and after some discussion was referred to the Executive Committee.

The annual public meeting of the College was held on the same day at 3.30 p.m., when the chair was taken by the Rev. Canon Wesley-Dennis, Principal of St. John's College, Battersea. There was a large attendance. After the Hon. Registrar had read the salient points of the annual report, a most interesting and inspiring address was given by the Chairman, of which we give a *résumé* below. Mr. Lister Smith, Miss

Garaway, and others also spoke. A cordial vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, on the motion of Mr. H. J. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Stainsby.

Immediately after the close of the public meeting, a meeting of the Executive Committee was held, when it was proposed by Mr. Thurman, and seconded by Mr. Illingworth, and resolved that Mr. H. J. Wilson be, and he is hereby elected Chairman for the current year. The dates of future meetings were arranged, and other business was transacted.

"I am not an expert on the teaching of the Blind, and Mr. Wilson invited me to come and speak a few words on educational topics generally." Thus the Rev. Canon Wesley-Dennis began his address.

He said that he had sent several men from the College into work for the Blind, which he viewed with the greatest possible sympathy. He was asked the other day whether he could take into the College a young soldier who had been blinded at the front. He would gladly undertake to do what he could, but, unfortunately, there were no arrangements at the College for training teachers of the Blind. He hoped, however, that much would be done in their colleges to encourage and train the one-armed, one-legged men who had been maimed in the war.

These were times requiring heroic measures, and personally he would be willing to close all the training colleges if he could thereby send out fit men to serve their country; and it was the duty of those of us who were left behind to see that educational matters did not suffer by their absence. We must all do a little bit more work.

There had been a tendency in the past to regard our buildings, desks, and chairs as the school rather than the life and work existing in them.

The greatest difficulty in our educational system was the question of religious teaching, and we had now an opportunity of introducing it into our code. If we could do this it would mean a new charter for the teachers.

The object of teaching was to train up God-fearing, patriotic and self-respecting citizens. The stern realities of the war had brought forth a new spirit, and the message to us from the trenches was the truths of religion. There was a deeper feeling stirring there.

As regards patriotism, these times had reawakened the religious feeling of France and reunited Russia as one people. Patriotism was not flag-waving and kicking up a row. That was a rotten idea of it. The ancient Greek idea was the best, viz., that it was the greatest disaster not to be allowed to give one's service to the country.

There remained the matter of self-respect. We should inculcate honest ambitions. Discipline was necessary for the formation of character. We often heard people talk about "free discipline" in their schools: this generally meant that they were not strong enough to get proper discipline. In a school he knew there hung a portrait of one of the old boys which bore the inscription "he won the greatest of victories." This boy had been removed from the school at the Principal's request: he then joined an O.T.C., and was ordered to the front. While there he wrote to his old master, and after expressing regret for all the trouble he had caused him, continued, "Since I have been in the army I have learnt the true meaning of discipline." Discipline may be strict without being harsh, and fosters the essentials of character—self-control and self-respect.

But it must not be forgotten in our schools that for most of us the great question is how to get a living, and we must provide training for the practical side of life. People must be trained to do the things for which they are most fit. There had been too little attention to this in the past, which had led to a stupendous waste of public money in our continuation schools.

We must cherish in our hearts a vision of a new England. We must try to strengthen that spirit of true liberty and earnestness, and endeavour to develop in our Empire that sense of a divine trust, and a divine opportunity. We must all work for

that true liberty which will make for the happiness of the world and the good of all mankind.

15. It has been decided to take fee-paying pupils over the age of sixteen at the L.C.C., Elm Court School, Norwood, in order that blind girls above that age may receive training in machine knitting. For this purpose the certified accommodation of the School has been extended by twelve places.

16. In reply to a question in Parliament Mr. Tennant stated that up to January 31st last only sixty-five non-commissioned officers and men had been blinded since the outbreak of war. These figures were, however, promptly corrected by Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, who has charge of the blinded soldiers and sailors at St. Dunstan's. We understand that at the present time the number is over 200, including officers and colonials.

17. At the quarterly meeting of the Board of Governors of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, held on February 22nd. Alderman Plummer referred to the opening of two new homes for the reception of sixty blind inmates from Manchester workhouses. One of the homes, the Millie Gresham Home for blind men, Old Bank, Old Trafford, had been given by Mrs. James Gresham. The other home for blind women is at Mossfield, Birch Avenue, Old Trafford. Both homes were opened on February 3rd.

18. Our readers will be glad to hear that arrangements have been made between the Association Valentin Haüy, 9, Rue Duroc, Paris, and the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, London, for a regular exchange of books.

A wide choice of the best French Literature will thus be available to British readers.

19. An interesting entertainment took place at the School for the Blind and Blind Deaf, Rhyl, North Wales, in January.

Archdeacon Lloyd presided, and spoke of the admirable work done in the School under the personal supervision of Miss Roberts. A concert and recitations were given by the pupils, which reflected great credit on the teachers. The entertainment was much enjoyed by a large audience, and the gifts from the Christmas tree were distributed by Mrs. Lloyd.

20. The first number of a new Magazine for the Blind called *Sunrays* was published in March. It is printed in inter-lined Braille, and the publishers are the Oakdale Publishing Co., 4, New London Street, E.C., price 6d. per copy, or 7d. by post.

21. The 23rd annual report of the Reading Blind Aid Society is very satisfactory, and there is no doubt that the Blind in Reading are well looked after by Mr. Hugh E. Walford, the active and sympathetic Hon. Secretary. The statement in the report refers only to what is being done by the local funds and does not include many benefits secured for the Blind by pensions from various Societies through the efforts of the Hon. Secretary. There are forty-eight blind persons on the register, the sexes being equally divided.

22. On March 27th the 123rd annual meeting of the Royal School for the Blind at Bristol was held, with the Lord Mayor of Bristol in the chair. The annual report for 1915 was adopted on the motion of the Chairman. It showed that for the first time the school was quite full, with 119 pupils on the roll. Reference is made to the appointment of Mr. P. Gray to be Principal in the place of the Rev. C. F. Hardy, who resigned in order to be Principal at the School at York. The wages paid to the Blind last year were £720 more than in the previous year. Several pupils received grants on leaving school to enable them to start as basket or mat-makers at their own homes.

23. We cull the following from the 89th annual report of the managers of the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, presented at the annual meeting held on January 17th.

During the year, 343 blind persons were educated, maintained, and employed. These not only represent all parts of Scotland, but England, Ireland, and the Colonies as well.

In view of the increased cost of living, the Managers revised the rates of payment to men and women, and increased the women's wages from 12/- to 13/- per week, and the men's from 21/- to 23/-, with corresponding increases in the scale of payment during the graduation period. The foregoing rates apply to time-workers only, but the wages of piece-workers much exceed these figures, averaging about 28/- weekly.

The total amount earned by the blind workers in the Industrial Department, rated at the full market value of their work, was £3,682 6s. 6d., and to this sum £4,411 10s. 10d. had to be added from subscriptions and extraordinary income to make up the payments in name of wages in conformity with the revised graded scale.

In addition to the foregoing, wages to blind collectors, salaries to blind teachers, and sundry charitable grants amounted to £1,437 7s. 9d., making in all the sum of £9,531 5s. 1d. paid directly to blind persons connected with the Institution—an increase of £470 4s. 5d. over last year's payments.

Considering the difficulty experienced in procuring supplies of raw material, and the greatly enhanced prices of same, coupled with the delays in securing delivery, the trading results have been extremely gratifying.

Hitherto steady employment has been provided for all the blind workers received into the Industrial Department. The immediate future is, however, fraught with much anxiety. For the past thirty years the Asylum has enjoyed a period of uninterrupted prosperity, but the after effects of the present war may tell very seriously on the Institution.

On the 30th November there were 100 pupils from five to sixteen years of age, on the School roll, twenty-nine being day scholars.

James M'Taggart, now completing his training at the Royal Normal College, obtained the degree of A.R.C.O., in July.

24. The annual meeting of the Aberdeen Town and County Association for the Teaching of the Blind in their Homes was held on February 17th, when Baillie Fiddes presided, and moved the adoption of the annual report.

Sheriff Laing, in seconding the adoption of the report, said thirty-six years ago the association was inaugurated, and it was quite impossible to estimate the value of the work done and the joy, comfort, and light which it had brought into many homes in the county. The work being done by the association was of truly an educational character. They sought to bring within the reach of the blind the sacred treasure of life's literature and taught them some handicraft so that they might feel that they were of some use in the world. The Sheriff paid a tribute to the work being most admirably carried on by Miss Lyall, the superintendent, who, by her kindly and sympathetic manner, had not only held the confidence of the members of the association, but the admiration and affection of all those with whom she came in contact.

Mr. Esslemont, M.P., speaking of the value of the work done by the association, urged the co-ordination of all efforts made throughout the length and breadth of the country on behalf of the blind. He said there was a public duty resting on the country in regard to the education of the blind, and such work should not be left entirely to voluntary effort. An effort had been made from time to time to induce the Government to take up this matter, but he was sorry to say up to the present moment it had not met with very much success. He did feel it to be, however, a real public duty, and he was inclined to put it even higher, and say it was a privilege put on the public who enjoyed the gift of vision to do something on behalf of the blind.

25. The scheme proposed by the Charity Commissioners for the regulations of the charity known as the Newcastle, Gateshead, and District Workshops for the Adult Blind has now been established by order of the Commissioners.

By this order the property of the charity is vested in the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, and the charity is to be administered by a body of trustees elected as follows:—Two by the Trustees for the time being of the Royal Victoria School for the Blind, two by the committee managing the workshops; one by the Newcastle City Council; one by the Newcastle Board of Guardians; Mr. R. Basil Hoare, who was for many years chairman of the old committee of the workshops, is to be a trustee for life.

The committee who will manage the workshops will consist of the president and secretary of the National League of the Blind and the members of the existing committee, who have so successfully carried on the workshops for the last four years. As long as the committee manage the workshops to the satisfaction of the trustees, the trustees will permit them to have the use of the workshops at a nominal rent, and will pay them the clear yearly income of the charity.

26. The annual meeting of the Oxford Society for the Blind was held on March 2nd, when a very satisfactory report for 1915 was presented. The chief speaker was Captain Peirson-Webber, who advocated poultry farming not only for the Blind, but also as a war measure, for the members of the community generally.

27. The following extract from an article by Miss Caroline Wilson in the *Chicago Tribune* of March 12th after her recent visit to Berlin shows that the treatment of the Blinded soldier is in marked contrast to that practised in this country. Apparently the desire is not to enlighten the German nation as to the severity of the casualties: "Around the corner from the Esplanade is a large building given up to blind soldiers. The building is right in the heart of Berlin—you pass it a dozen times a day—and yet you never meet any of these blind men out walking with their attendants. I learned after I had been there a couple of weeks that they are never taken out except after dusk, and then go to the Tiergarten to walk, so that no one may be depressed by the sight."

THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

Metropolitan Union. Meetings of the Executive Council have been held on January 8th and March 4th at 11 a.m. During the war the Committee have decided to meet every other month, but the Case Committee meet regularly every month. On March 4th the resignation of Mrs. Goodhart on account of ill-health was accepted with sincerest regret, with much appreciation for her zealous efforts on behalf of the Union and with every good wish for a speedy recovery. A proof of the annual report was read and agreed to with a few amendments. Miss MacAndrew was elected on the Executive Council. The annual general meeting took place on March 4th at 12 noon at the office of Gardner's Trust for the Blind. There was a good attendance, but many wrote regretting their inability to be present. The following officers were re-elected for 1916-17:—Mr. H. J. Wilson, Chairman, on the motion of Dr. Ranger, seconded by Miss B. Taylor; Mr. Stuart Johnson, Hon. Treasurer, on the motion of Mr. Wagg, seconded by Mr. Lempriere; Mr. Guy Campbell, Hon. Secretary, on the motion of Sir John Brickwood, seconded by Dr. Ranger; Dr. Ranger, Hon. Solicitor, on the motion of Miss B. Taylor, seconded by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and Mr. Lewis, Hon. Auditor, on the motion of Mr. P. M. Evans, seconded by Miss Harris Browne. In returning thanks for his re-election Mr. Wilson welcomed Miss MacAndrew as the representative of the County of Surrey, and referred to the loss sustained by Mrs. Goodhart's regretted resignation, and by Miss B. Taylor's inability to attend the meetings as constantly as she had done. He drew attention to Miss Harris Browne's splendid work in the employment of blind women in knitting, and to Miss Bennett's faithful service until she left to be married. He added that the Committee were fortunate in securing a valuable successor, as **Organizing Secretary, in Miss D. Jones.**

In accordance with article 25 of the Constitution, the following retired, as members of the Executive Council, viz.:—Miss P. Wheeler, Mr. H. J. Wilson, Miss E. M. Bainbrigg, Sir

John Brickwood, and Miss Harris Browne, and on the motion of Mr. Guy Campbell, seconded by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, all were re-elected.

The annual report and balance sheet for 1915 having been read, it was proposed by Sir John Brickwood, seconded by Miss Harris Browne, and resolved unanimously that the report be received and adopted and printed.

Miss B. Taylor, Mr. G. M. Campbell, and Mr. H. J. Wilson were re-elected representatives of the Union for 1916 on the Union of Unions Committee.

North of England Union. The annual meeting was held at York on March 21st, and the Lord Mayor of York presided. The 10th annual report of the Committee was presented by Miss I. M. Heywood, Hon. Secretary, and showed much steady progress. New work had been started in several places, and much attention had been given to after-care. Miss Sadgrove, Organizing Secretary, stated there were about 9,000 blind persons in the six Northern Counties area, and of these only about 5,000 were cared for by any Institution or Society. She added that the Northern Counties Joint Poor Law Committee for the feeble-minded had informed her that after the war was over the feeble-minded blind persons would be cared for. The adoption of the report was moved by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr. J. Booth, who regretted the loss of Miss Sadgrove, who was relinquishing the post of Organizing Secretary. The resolution was carried. Colonel T. R. Jolly was elected Chairman, Mr. J. Booth, Vice-Chairman, Miss I. M. Heywood, Hon. Secretary, and Miss Bellhouse, Organizing Secretary, in the place of Miss Sadgrove. An address was then given by Mr. Henry Stainsby on the work carried on at St. Dunstan's Hostel for blinded soldiers and sailors, and the scheme for their after-care. He congratulated Bradford and Manchester on having removed all their blind persons from the Workhouse and having provided them with comfortable homes, with a certain amount of employment.

North West Union. An Executive Committee Meeting was held in Chester in March to pass the Annual Report and Financial Statement. This was in place of the usual Annual Meeting, which had to be postponed.

The Secretary's address is now 9, Abbey Street, Chester.

ROYAL VICTORIA SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

By Mr. William Robertson, F.E.I.S., House Governor.

About the beginning of the year 1838 a Society was established in Newcastle called "The Asylum for the Blind for Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the Counties of Northumberland and Durham," the benevolent design of which is explained in the following abstract of the first quarterly meeting of the subscribers held in the Guildhall on the 1st May, 1838.—"The object is to afford to the indigent Blind a religious, moral and elementary education founded on Scriptural principles and to teach them such trades as are suitable to their capacities." Premises for the commencement of the Asylum had been obtained at the Spital, near to Westgate Street, and adjoining West Spital Tower. The site of this first Blind Asylum now forms part of the eastern platform of the Central Station at Newcastle.

It is to be regretted that such a work, which, in its nature, would seem calculated only to bring out the most amicable and philanthropic feelings, should have been marked by a spirit of contention. Considerable discussion took place as to the regulations of the Asylum in regard to the religious instruction of the inmates, and several subscribers, dissatisfied with those regulations, seceded from the Society and organized another Asylum under the designation of "The Northern Asylum for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb."

At a public meeting held in the Music Hall, Blakett Street, on the 7th of June, 1838, the Ven. Archdeacon Thorpe in the Chair, this second Asylum was established, and its

articles of constitution agreed to. The following was its fundamental principle which was considered fixed and unalterable:—"That the religious services of the Asylum shall be conducted by a clergyman of the Established Church who shall be appointed Chaplain to the Institution, but that such of the inmates as may be of a different persuasion, shall, if they desire, attend their respective places of worship on the Lord's Day, and at all other times have free and unreserved intercourse with the Ministers of their own Communion."

This Asylum was opened in June, 1838, in a house in Wellington Place, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle.

At a public meeting held in the Guildhall, Newcastle, on Friday, the 22nd day of June, 1838, it was resolved "That instead of illuminating the town in celebration of Her Majesty's Coronation a subscription be entered into for the purpose of erecting a suitable building for the accommodation of the Blind, to be called "The Royal Victoria Blind Asylum." It was evidently thought that the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, presented a propitious opportunity for effecting a Union with the other two Asylums, and it was accordingly determined that a code of rules for the government of this Institution should be prepared independently of both the other Societies, and should then be submitted to each in the hope that, by this friendly interposition on the part of a neutral body, the Union of all might be accomplished. Rules for the government of the Royal Victoria Asylum for the Blind were accordingly prepared and handed to the Committee of both the existing Institutions.

It is unnecessary here to detail all that passed between the Royal Victoria and the other two Asylums. Suffice it to say that on the 5th February, 1839, a Union was effected between the Royal Victoria and the Spital Asylums under the title of the Royal Victoria Asylum for the Industrious Blind of the Counties of Northumberland and Durham and the town of Berwick-on-Tweed.

Seven members of the Town Council were appointed to endeavour to effect a Union between this Asylum and the

Northern Asylum for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, but after six months' negotiations they had to report that the object for which they were appointed had been frustrated by the unnecessary condition required by the latter Institution, viz: "That the funds of the Institution are to be at all times applicable, and shall, if necessary, be applied to the payment of the Chaplain." It must be admitted that such a Union would have been highly desirable as tending to advance the interests of charity, and also important as putting an end to a lamentable example of the mingling of religious strife and contention with works of charity.

The two Institutions carried on their work entirely independent of each other, and all attempts at reconciliation were doomed to failure.

The premises at the Spital where the Royal Victoria Asylum was established were rented from the Corporation of Newcastle at £26 per annum. Five adult persons (of whom four were blind) were employed as workmen and teachers of trades. They did not reside in the Asylum, but were paid weekly wages. Two blind boys were also employed at the Asylum during the day. One made some progress in basket-making, and was paid 2/- a week, while the other was employed in turning a wheel in the manufacture of twine, and received 1/- per week. These boys were latterly received into the Asylum as apprenticed inmates. The regular inmates of the Asylum consisted of a youth of eighteen and a girl aged nine. The former received instruction in basket-making, and the girl in knitting and netting.

There were also two girls who received instruction during the day at a charge of 1/- per week. The instruction in reading was attended to by the Matron, and the books used were those published by Mr. John Alston, of Glasgow.

It is interesting to note that the Master and Matron, in addition to board and lodging, received annual salaries of £40 and £12 respectively.

For an Institution just in its infancy the trades carried on seem to have been of a very comprehensive nature, and according to the Report of 1840, comprised the following articles..

viz: Mattresses in hair, wool, seagrass, cotton and straw, sofa and chair cushions, basket work of every kind, hair friction belts and gloves, rope, Spanish bent and hair doormats, hearth and door rugs, onion nets, twine and other articles.

The work performed by the female pupils and on sale consisted of shawls, tippets, under spencers and dresses in white and coloured worsted, knitted list shoes and carriage boots, stockings, hair friction gloves for the cure of rheumatism and for promoting the circulation of the blood, needle work, &c.

The Institution was open for business from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Saturdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dr. T. E. Hedlam, Mayor of Newcastle, at that time was the first Chairman of Committee, and the Rev. Richard Clayton was the Superintendent of Religious Instruction, which office he gratuitously discharged for eighteen years to the edification of the inmates and the entire satisfaction of successive Committees. He took an active part in assisting in the formation of the Asylum, and in every measure that was calculated to benefit it.

It was soon found that the accommodation at the Spital was quite unequal to the demands made upon it, so on the 17th August, 1841, the Institution was removed to more commodious premises at 50, Northumberland Street, a few yards north of Prudhoe Street. These premises were purchased for the sum of £2,300. The Committee had a sum of £800 available as a building fund, and £1,500 was borrowed on mortgage of the property. This debt was reduced from time to time, and in 1856 the property was free from encumbrance.

It is evident from this that the original intention of the subscribers, the building of an Asylum, had not been carried into effect, although an advantageous site was available in the vicinity of the baths in Northumberland Road, a short distance north-east of the premises to which they had removed. The outbuildings of these premises had to be altered and enlarged for the purpose of forming workshops.

It is worthy of note that an outstanding feature of the work of the female inmates at that time was the manufacture of

shawls. On the occasion of the birth of the Princess Royal one of these shawls was sent to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who ordered five more. Forty-three shawls had been made in eight months, and forty-nine more were on order. A knitter of these shawls deserves special mention. Jane Strathmore ("Old Jane" as she was familiarly called) who was the first blind girl to enter the Spital Asylum at nine years of age, died at the present Institution at Benwell on 8th June, 1907, and was knitting shawls, &c., almost to the day of her death at the age of seventy-eight, having been an inmate for the long period of sixty-nine years. She was a great reader, and learned Braille after she was sixty years of age.

In April, 1842, the Asylum was visited by that well known promoter of the instruction of the Blind, Mr. John Alston, of Glasgow, with the object of acquainting himself with the state of the Institution. He expressed himself much pleased with the work, and stated that, in his opinion, no one possessed of sight could excel the inmates in the manufacture of mats. He also spoke highly of the basket-making, and the Royal shawls elicited his warmest approbation.

Shortly afterwards the Asylum was visited by Mr. James George, the Treasurer of the Bristol Institution, who expressed his satisfaction with the Asylum, and on the 3rd of June, 1842, Mr. Frederick Russell, the Secretary of the same Institution, paid the Asylum a visit, and left in writing his impression of his visit. "I can truly say I am much gratified by observing the liberal spirit which pervades its rules and practice. The system of moral instruction appears very efficient. I thought the pupils read with superior facility. The variety of occupation is greater than I have seen in other Institutions, and I cannot avoid concluding it is in a state of advance before them."

A step in the right direction was taken in 1848, when the Blind attending the Northern Asylum for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb were transferred to the Royal Victoria Asylum, which thus became the only Asylum for the Blind in the four Northern Counties. The Northern Asylum then devoted its energies entirely to the care of the Deaf and Dumb.

In 1849 there were thirty-six inmates in the Royal Victoria Asylum, and as the chief design of the Institution was to train up the youthful blind in habits of industry and to put them in a position to gain their livelihood by their own exertions the Committee parted with the services of some of the adult blind in order to obviate the necessity which might otherwise have been entailed on them of refusing applications for the admission of the young, their great object being to keep the Institution from the ruinous course of allowing its expenditure to outstrip its income.

During the first twelve years of the existence of the Asylum, the sale of articles manufactured in it amounted to £8,910, the produce of the labour of from twenty-five to thirty-five persons, many of them children. The Exhibitors' Medal of the Great Exhibition was received by the Institution for specimens of the work of the pupils exhibited in the Crystal Palace in 1851, the medal being accompanied by a certificate bearing the signature of His Royal Highness Prince Albert.

For the first time in the Institution's history there was a deficiency of £84 for the financial year ending 31st May, 1854. This was caused by the increased price of provisions and the fearful outbreak of Asiatic Cholera in September, 1853, when some of the inmates were sent to their homes and others to lodgings in some uninfected locality.

For the same year there were thirty-seven inmates (twenty-one of whom were males), and a record is given of the articles manufactured and sold, viz., 229 fibre door mats and 2 open mats, 488 baskets, 74 new hair mattresses, 45 hair mattresses repaired, 18 new hair pillows, 7 hair pillows repaired, 2 bolsters, 2 cushions, 26 straw mattresses, 43 seagrass mattresses, 2 seagrass mattresses repaired, 1 seagrass pillow. The total sales amounted to nearly £500, including £90 for knitted work. It will be observed that the manufacture of bedding took a foremost place.

For a number of years after this, the work of the Institution was carried on without interruption, and nothing requiring special mention occurred.

Although not relevant to this history it may be mentioned in passing that a meeting was held in the Music Hall, Nelson Street, on the 8th November, 1867. The Worshipful the Mayor, Mr. William Hunter, in the Chair, when the following resolution was passed:—On the motion of the Ven. Archdeacon Prest, seconded by Mr. I. C. Johnson, "That this meeting is of opinion that it is highly desirable to establish in Newcastle-upon-Tyne Workshops for the Adult Blind of the North of England in connection with which employment shall be found for those who may have received elementary education and instruction in trade and manufacture or who by reason of age are inadmissible into Institutions for the Blind." These Workshops are still in existence, and though various attempts at amalgamation have been made they have so far been unsuccessful. Reference to this will be made later.

In 1870 the Committee felt that the sleeping accommodation provided in the Asylum was inadequate, and they erected new and more spacious dormitories for the sum of £456, and in the following year a new organ was erected at a cost of £260. Music seems to have occupied a prominent place in the curriculum, and to have been of a fairly high standard, judging from the programme rendered at the various annual meetings.

The greatest forward movement taken by the Committee was in 1893, when they purchased from Dr. Thomas Hodgkin the beautiful house and grounds of Benwell Dene. This little estate of about six acres is pleasantly situated in the west of Newcastle overlooking the Tyne, where it is joined by the river Derwent, up the valley of which an uninterrupted view of nearly twelve miles can be obtained.

After its removal to Benwell on 28th December, 1894, the name of the Institution was changed to the Royal Victoria School (instead of Asylum) for the Blind, and it was recognised by the Board of Education as a certified Institution under the Blind and Deaf Children Act, 1893.

A new wing was added, and various alterations approved by the Education Department were carried out. The alterations, costing £1,478, were designed by Messrs. Waterhouse and Son,

London, the architects of the original buildings, and in the first report from H.M. Inspector (Rev. T. W. Sharp, M.A., C.B.), it is stated, "The buildings are well arranged, and supply due provision for the comfort of the inmates."

On his recommendation a temporary schoolroom, with four class-rooms attached, were erected in the grounds in 1895 at a cost of about £350. There were at this time fifty-four resident pupils who received elementary and technical education.

Financially the year 1896 was the worst in the history of the Institution. The subscriptions and donations amounted to only £106, and there was a deficit on the year's working of £787.

In 1902 the sum of £755 was expended in altering and equipping the training shops, and since that time pupils have been retained after the age of sixteen years in order to complete their training in the various employments by which they may hope to obtain a livelihood.

As the corrugated iron building used as a schoolroom was only of a temporary character the Committee decided to erect a permanent school building and an addition to the main building of new bath-rooms, boot-rooms and cloak-rooms as required by the Board of Education at a total cost of over £6,000. Towards this sum the "Gardner Trust for the Blind" gave a grant of £250, and grants in aid were obtained from several local Education Authorities on certain conditions, one of which was that these Authorities should be represented on the Board of Management of the Institution.

These new premises were opened on the 15th June, 1905, by Sir Walter R. Plummer, M.P., and have proved of inestimable value to the work of the school. The school building consists of a central hall with three classrooms on either side, music practice rooms at one end and a library and museum at the other. The classrooms are airy and well lit with a circular dome above each. The main hall is connected by a corridor with the Recreation Hall (the gift of the late Alexander Laing in 1897) and the whole is heated by hot water.

The erection of these buildings was a great advance on the previous state of affairs, and the following is H.M. Inspector's report after his first visit to the new premises: "The Committee are to be congratulated on the new School Buildings and the structural alterations to the house, which are certain to prove a powerful incentive to the best work. I am glad to note the very satisfactory improvement in the work and in the appearance of the children since last year. The records of progress are particularly well kept. The new schemes will go far to encourage a practicable and profitable course of study in the coming year."

The work of the Institution is now divided into three parts, viz., Elementary Education, Technical Training, and Employment. So far as the first is concerned the school is now in a state of efficiency. The class work is in the hands of a capable school staff of six certificated mistresses (three of whom are blind) and one sewing mistress. Every facility is provided for outdoor sports and recreation, and in fine weather, during summer, the classes are held in the open air. The pupils' gardens are a source of delight and a great help to them in their Nature study lessons.

As regards Technical Training the work is at present carried on under difficulties owing to the want of proper buildings. The Committee have, however, decided to erect up-to-date technical schools for boys and girls over sixteen years of age, and also provide a hostel for the girls within the grounds. These buildings would have been by this time in course of erection, but they had to be postponed owing to the war.

In the matter of employment various attempts have been made to bring about an amalgamation between this Institution and the Workshops for the Adult Blind, but, however desirable such a union undoubtedly is, these attempts have always ended in failure.

About five years ago the Committee of this Institution proposed to build suitable and commodious Workshops in the grounds at Benwell, and plans were prepared and submitted to the Board of Education. The Board refused to sanction the

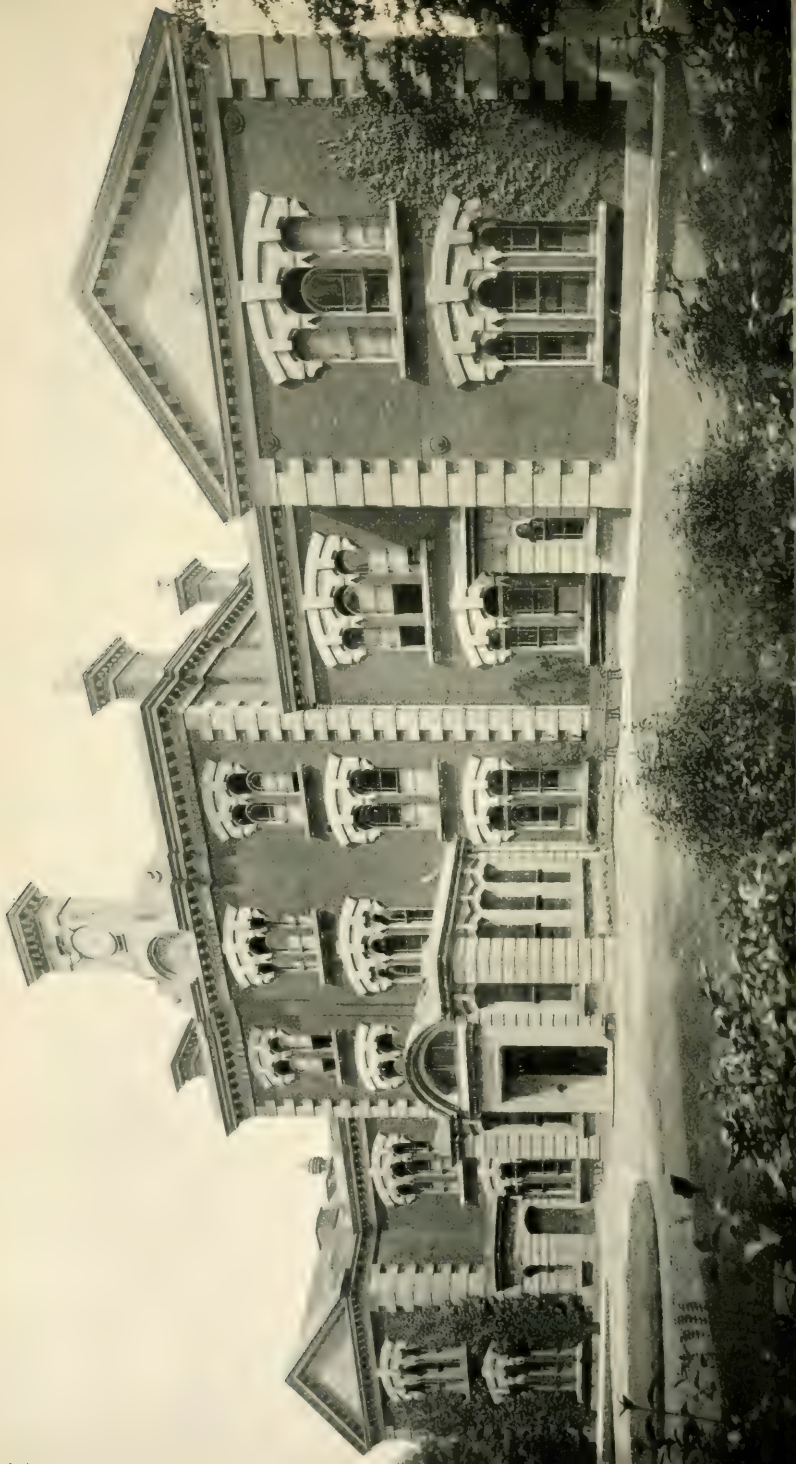
erection of the buildings as the question of employment did not come within the scope of the work of this Institution. They also objected to Adult Workshops being erected in close proximity to the school.

A closer bond of union has recently been effected by the scheme of the Charity Commissioners issued in 1915 for the management of the Workshops for the Adult Blind. By this scheme it is enacted that two members of Committee of this Institution shall act as its representatives on the new body of Trustees of the Workshops for the Adult Blind. The members so appointed are Mr. C. Burney Catnach and Mr. R. B. Brennall, who have been Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively for the last fifteen years. Mr. Catnach has been a member of Committee for twenty-seven years, and succeeded as Chairman the late Alderman, W. D. Stephens, who for nearly thirty years took a deep interest in the welfare of the Institution. Both gentlemen are warm supporters of every movement in behalf of the welfare of the Blind, and it is confidently hoped that by their presence on the Board of Trustees of the Workshops for the Adult Blind, a working arrangement between the two Institutions may be effected which will be of great benefit to the Blind of Newcastle and the four Northern Counties.

There are at present seventy-five resident blind pupils under sixteen years of age, and twenty-eight over that age, who either reside at their own homes or are boarded out at the expense of the Institution in homes approved by the Committee.

The Elementary School curriculum embraces the usual class subjects with a comprehensive manual course and music. The trades taught to the boys include basket, mat, mattress, and cork-fender making, while the girls are instructed in chair reseatng hand and machine knitting, sewing, crochet, and fancy work.

From its commencement, which was fraught with many and uncalled for difficulties, the Institution has been of great service in behalf of the Blind, and it is confidently hoped that, under the wise guidance of its Committee, it may, in the years to come, prove of increasing usefulness in the great cause which they have at heart.



The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 75.

JULY 20TH, 1916.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. We regret to have to record the death of the Rev. J. J. Beresford at Easton Grey Rectory, near Malmesbury. Mr. Beresford was Rector of Easton Grey, and sixty-one years of age. The Church is situated in the grounds of Mrs. Graham Smith, Mrs. Asquith's sister, and the Prime Minister has often attended the Church and read the lessons at the Sunday services. Mr. Beresford, who was an old student of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, went to Cambridge, and in 1878 graduated with 2nd class Honours in the Law Tripos. He was a poet of considerable ability, and will be remembered by some beautiful verses which he wrote on the death of the Rev. S. S. Forster, Headmaster of the College at Worcester.

2. We regret to have to state that Private H. F. Poiney, of the Royal Sussex Regiment, has been killed in action. We mentioned him in No. 73 of *The Blind* as having been an employee of the Moon Society Branch of the National Institute for the Blind and serving in His Majesty's Forces.

3. We heartily congratulate Sir C. Arthur Pearson on the

Baronetcy bestowed on him by the King. His work in connection with St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors is too well known amongst those interested in the Blind to need description.

The report of the Hostel for the year ended March 31st last, from which we quote the following, gives the reader some idea of the work that has merited this distinction:—

“It was on March 26th, 1915, that a start was made at the Hostel with fourteen blinded soldiers, who were brought from a temporary establishment kindly lent by Mrs. Lewis Hall until the Hostel was ready. This number has steadily grown. There are now at St. Dunstan's, or in the Annexes at Brighton and Torquay, a total of 140 non-commissioned officers and men, among whom are included five Australians, two New Zealanders, and seven Canadians. At 21, Portland Place, a spacious residence belonging to Sir John and Lady Stirling-Maxwell, and most generously placed at the disposal of the Committee by them, there live ten officers who take their instruction at St. Dunstan's. They learn to read and write in Braille, to type-write, and to acquire some occupation useful in their future lives for pleasure or profit.

Fifty-one men have passed out from St. Dunstan's having learned one or more of the following occupations:—Boot-repairing, mat-making, net-making, basket-making, joinery, poultry-farming, and market-gardening, while one officer has qualified as a masseur.

Practically all of these read and write Braille, and type-write with the ordinary typewriter. . . .

A man who has never handled carpenter's tools quickly becomes adept in this class of work. In this department instruction in making such simple articles as hen-coops and rabbit hutches is given to members of the poultry-class.

Boot repairing is taught by two blind instructors. The cobblers are encouraged to learn mat-making. . . .

Mat-making is taught by two blind men. The mats are made on hand-frames. . . .

Basket-making is taught by two blind instructors. . . .

The feeling of helplessness which overwhelms a strong, healthy, newly-blinded man is incredibly relieved when he finds that the one who is to instruct him in some profitable employment is suffering from the same handicap as himself. Men who are prepared to argue and disagree with the methods of a sighted instructor, follow with keenness and appreciation those of instructors blind like themselves.

The best men who are nearing the end of their course of training are made pupil teachers. A great feeling of confidence is given to a new-comer when he finds that his instructor was himself blinded only a few months ago.

In close proximity to the workshops is the poultry-farm, where those men who wish to live in the country are instructed in poultry-keeping and simple market gardening. . . .

Several men who occupied secretarial positions before they joined the army are learning Braille shorthand, which, combined with a knowledge of typewriting, will enable them to resume their former work.

Massage is likely to prove the most lucrative of the occupations taught at St. Dunstan's. . . .

When men leave St. Dunstan's they are provided free with their plant and appliances, and great care is taken to ensure that they settle in suitable localities."

4. The Right Hon. Lord Shaw of Dunfermline has kindly acceded to the request of the Committee of the National Library for the Blind to act as their Chairman, and Mr. H. J. Wilson, who has been filling the post temporarily, has been elected Vice-Chairman.

5. The Rev. Albert Tansey has been appointed Vicar of Itchenor, Chichester. We understand that it is a very pretty and quiet spot close to the sea, and that there is a nice house and garden. We trust that this move from Yorkshire to the South of England may prove of great benefit to Mrs. Tansey, who has been in bad health for a long time.

6. The Rev. J. H. Gordon Smith, B.A., has been pre-

sented to the Living of Arkesden in Essex. He was at Keble College, Oxford, and took Honours in Modern History. He is an old pupil of Worcester Blind College.

7. Mr. James Smith, M.A., who has recently been appointed Headmaster of the School for the Blind in Sunderland, was educated at the Yorkshire School for the Blind, and from there he went to the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester. He then passed on to Cambridge, where he took his degree. He has been a teacher of English Literature for some years in Berlin, where he was organist at the English and also at the American Churches. He and his wife were not interned, but were told that they must leave the city, and they left last February.

8. Mr. Herbert C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., who was a Gardner scholar for several years at the Royal Normal College, is leaving Oxford to take up the post of organist and supervisor of the music department at the National Institute for the Blind. He was organist at St. Barnabas Church, Oxford, for twelve years, and was regarded as one of the principal organists in that city. He did much for the cause of the Blind locally by serving on the Committee of the Home Teaching Society, and making other blind organists known to the public.

9. Mr. Michael Dodd, who has held a Gardner Scholarship for four years at Peterhouse, Cambridge, took last month a 3rd class in Part ii of the Law Tripos, and has taken the B.A. and LL.B. Degrees. Mr. Dodd was educated at the Newcastle Grammar School, passing from there to the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, where he was a Gardner scholar, and from there he went direct to the University, where he also held a Gardner Scholarship.

10. Mr. Harold Frank Lakeman, of New College, Oxford, has been appointed to the Fawcett Memorial Scholarship of the value of £50 a year, and tenable for four years, subject to con-

tinuous residence at the University. Mr. Lakeman holds also a Gardner Scholarship of £30 a year.

11. Mr. Percy C. Nichols, formerly of the Royal Normal College, and during the past year a Gardner scholar at Wadham College, Oxford, took his degree last month with 2nd class Honors in Modern History. He now intends to go to the Theological College at Salisbury with a view to preparing for Holy Orders.

12. Mr. William Whitehead, an old student of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, who was employed with Messrs, Broadwood and Co., has been offered and accepted a five years' engagement with Messrs. Moutrie and Co., of Shanghai, at a very good commencing salary. Mr. Whitehead left England on April 14th. He was a Gardner scholar, and already this firm has in its employ two former Gardner scholars, Mr. Edmund Wellbelove and Mr. Cyril Harrison, and are still keeping them. It is a splendid tribute to the training given at the College that a firm at the opposite side of the world prefers still to get its tuners from the College.

13. The annual meeting of the Belfast Association for the Employment of Industrious Blind was held on April 19th at the Workshops, 28, Royal Avenue, when Lord O'Neill presided over a large attendance.

The forty-fourth annual report stated that notwithstanding the war, the year 1915 has been a record one; larger sales, an increased number of blind employed and more wages paid; and also greater assistance given to the more needy ones. The number benefited was 142. The total amount disbursed amongst the Blind was £4,410, including £3,781 in wages and £629 in sick and supplemental allowances and pensions.

At the close of the meeting the Manager, Mr. James H. Hewitt, was presented with a three-quarter length portrait in oils of himself, the gift of the staff and employees of the Workshops for the Blind, Belfast, as a token of respect and esteem. The

presentation, which was made by Lady Ewart, marked the completion of thirty-eight years' service by Mr. Hewitt as manager. Complimentary and suitable speeches were delivered by leading employees in the different departments, including the principal foremen and some of the oldest workmen in the workshops. The addresses all bore striking testimony to Mr. Hewitt's exceptional business capacity, his unfailing kindness to the Blind, his generosity, and his lovable personality, and the hope was expressed that he would long enjoy good health and every happiness.

Mr. Hewitt, who was much touched by the kind gift, replied in suitable words of gratitude.

14. The term just closing at Henshaw's Blind Asylum has been one of marked success, particularly with regard to the College of Music connected with this Institution. Mr. Percy Galley, who has been trained as a pianoforte tuner and repairer, has obtained the position of principal tuner at an Altrincham Music Warehouse. Mr. Ernest Taylor has received a similar appointment in Hyde.

Mr. Andrew Welsh has been appointed professional pianist at the Chorlton Pavilion Cinema, Manchester, and is giving complete satisfaction. He is totally blind, and was educated at the College of Music, in connection with Henshaw's Blind Asylum, receiving for the last three years a gift of £18 a year from Gardner's Trust for the Blind in part payment of his fee at the College.

All these young men are to be congratulated on thus being enabled to go out into the world and become self-supporting from the first.

15. Our readers will be pleased and interested to know that Mr. Charles F. Campbell has been appointed Superintendent of the Ohio School for the Blind in Columbus. He has worked indefatigably on behalf of the Blind in the United States ever since 1903, and well deserves the important post to which he has been elected. It must be very gratifying to him

that the opportunity has come in Ohio, for he will be a member of the Commission, and have a controlling voice in directing the work for the adult Blind. This will enable him to unify the effort of the State Government to care for the handicapped citizens from infancy to old age. His thirteen years connection with the commissions in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, enables him to bring to the training of the youthful Blind a most valuable experience for a Superintendent. Those who know him and his unbounded energy and burning enthusiasm will not be surprised to hear that within half-an-hour of his election on May 15th by the Board of Administration he took up active duties, as his predecessor's resignation took effect at once.

16. Mr. John Servant, a student of the Royal Normal College and a Gardner scholar, has obtained employment at Messrs. Chappell and Co., and began work on May 15th.

Mr. John Brennan, who has been a Gardner Scholar at the Royal Normal College and trained there in shorthand and typewriting, obtained a post under the Board of Trade last June, and is giving complete satisfaction in his work.

17. Miss Ethel Thomas, a student at the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, has secured a position of organist. She recently gained her diploma as Fellow of Trinity College of Music.

18. Dr. J. Lloyd Johnstone and Mr. Norman Webb, who passed the examination held last March by the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, have obtained appointments, as Masseurs, at the Hammersmith Military Hospital. Dr. Johnstone is also engaged in transcribing into Braille a book on Anatomy for the use of blind students of massage.

19. It will interest our readers to know that twenty-three boys have been in residence this term at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester. This is the

largest number, not including sighted students, since the College was founded just fifty years ago. When we remember that there were so very few students when Mr. G. C. Brown was appointed Headmaster about four years ago, we must congratulate him heartily on this most satisfactory increase.

The Speech Day and the 50th annual distribution of prizes at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, is to be held in the College Gymnasium on Thursday next, 27th inst., when there will be an organ recital by Mr. W. Wolstenholme, Mus. Bac., and scenes from Julius Cæsar by the students. We much regret our inability to accept the kind invitation 'to be present at such an interesting gathering. Boat races were fixed for July 3rd, 12th, 13th, and 25th. Those on the 12th were against blinded soldiers and sailors at St. Dunstan's Hostel, and to be rowed from Putney Bridge to Mile Post.

20. Eight of the blinded soldiers have passed the examination held last month by the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses. They have all been trained at St. Dunstan's and at the National Institute for the Blind.

21. The special article in the next number will be the history of the West of England Institution for the Blind at Exeter by Mr. Cutcliffe Knill, Secretary, in conjunction with Mr. Pinn, Superintendent.

22. The Examinations of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships tenable at the Royal Normal College, are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

23. The following books have been added to the Free Public Library at Oxford:—Sidgwick's "Greek Prose Composition," "Stories from Ovid Text, Vocabulary and Notes,"

Lucan's "Pharsalia," Book 7, Rousseau's "Contrat Social," Berkeley's "Principles of Human Knowledge," Introduction to Dicey's "Law of the Constitution," Egerton's "History of British Colonial Policy," Plato's "Apology" (translation), and Abbott and Mansfield's "Greek Grammar."

24. It is with much pleasure that we are able to report that steps have been taken to form a representative National Committee to consider the proposal recently made by the American Commission on Uniform Type for the Blind, viz., that the merits of British Braille should be very carefully considered for the purpose of ascertaining whether it can be taken as a basis for formulating a uniform system for all English speaking blind persons.

On April 19th a meeting was convened by Sir C. Arthur Pearson, Bart., to consider the best way of forming such a National Committee in order to thresh out this question most thoroughly, and at that meeting it was decided that the bodies from which representatives should be chosen should be the following :—

Association of Teachers of the Blind	...	...	3
British and Foreign Bible Society	...	...	2
College of Teachers of the Blind	...	...	3
Edinburgh School for the Blind	...	...	1
Embossed Scientific Book Fund	...	...	1
Home Teaching Societies (England 2 and Scotland 1)	...	...	3
Libraries	...	...	3
National Institute for the Blind	...	...	4
Residential Schools with more than 50 pupils	...	...	3

The National Committee will, therefore, consist of twenty-three members from all those agencies especially interested in Braille. The numbers given after the names of the bodies, indicate how many representatives each body can appoint

25. The new Bishop of Peterborough—the Rev. F. T. Woods—gave the address last year at the 54th celebration of Founder's Day at the Royal Institution for the Blind at Bradford.

26. The 67th annual report of Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester, for the year ended March 31st last, is interesting reading, and shows considerable progress in the work of benefiting the Blind. The total number of blind persons at present assisted by the Charity is 397, viz., 179 in the Parent Institution, 59 at the Mary Ann Scott Memorial Home, 73 in the Workshops, and 86 recipients of weekly grants.

The outstanding feature of the work done by this Institution during the past year has been the opening of two new Homes for aged blind persons hitherto resident in the Poor Law Institutions of the Manchester Union.

Oak Bank, the house which it will be remembered, was given by the late Mr. James Gresham, has been furnished as a home for men, and two semi-detached houses in Birch Avenue, Old Trafford, have been taken on lease, made to communicate, and furnished as a home for women. There are now about thirty men and thirty women resident in these homes, and the object of the Board will be to make them homes for these aged people, in the real sense of the word. They will receive all the benefit of the experience of the Blind which the Board have at their disposal, and it is hoped that by finding them some congenial occupation wherever possible, and by means of their surroundings, their lives will be considerably brightened.

Henshaw's Blind Asylum has recently been honoured by receiving an order from Their Majesties, the King and Queen, for fancy cane chairs to be made to a pattern supplied from Windsor Castle.

In the letter accompanying the order, addressed to Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Superintendent, the Inspector of the Palace says:—"I am commanded to say that the King is desirous that your work shall be recognised, and therefore ask you to send on six of the chairs as soon as possible."

It is interesting to note that most of the chairs are being made by a man who is not only blind, but deaf and dumb also.

27. A meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held on April 8th, when several matters were

discussed, and the list of applicants for the examination to be held in June was considered and approved.

A further meeting was held on June 24th, when there were present Miss Garaway, Mr. G. M. Campbell, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, Martin, A. Pearson, Pine, Ritchie, Stainsby, Thurman, and H. J. Wilson in the chair. Mr. Stone wrote regretting his inability to be present.

A letter was read from Lady Campbell stating that she would probably not be returning to England for some time, and suggesting that she should retire from the Committee, but it was unanimously agreed to ask her to remain a member.

Mr. Stainsby having explained the formation of the National Uniform Type Committee, it was proposed by Mr. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. Campbell, and resolved that Miss Garaway, the Rev. St. Clare Hill and Mr. H. J. Wilson be appointed the representatives of the College on the said Committee.

The examiners' report was read by their chairman, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and several important questions were discussed.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Committee of the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind for their kind permission to allow the examinations to be held in the school, also to Mr. Ritchie and the Staff for their great assistance and warm hospitality. The Committee of the School took great interest in the examination, and the Chairman, an exceedingly busy man, kindly found time to lunch with the examiners, and four other members looked in at various times to show their interest in the proceedings. Mr. Wilson warmly thanked the examiners and the moderator for their valuable work, and for giving so much time and careful attention to the subject.

The following were elected examiners for 1917, viz.:—Miss Garaway, Mr. P. Gray, Mr. A. Pearson, Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Stone. The Rev. St. Clare Hill was appointed moderator.

The following candidates, of whom all passed with honours, mentioned after their respective names, were granted certificates:—

Bancroft, Nellie. Theoretical Braille. Practical Braille. Arithmetic.

Daugherty, Esther M. Theory of Education. Practical Teaching. Arithmetic. Physical Training.

Deacon, Florence M. Practical Braille.

Dixon, Janet A. Theory of Education. Arithmetic.

Fison, Kathleen. Practical Teaching. Arithmetic.

Freeman, Rosina. Theoretical Braille. Practical Braille.

Marsh, Winifred M. Arithmetic.

Meaby, Violet M. Arithmetic. Practical Teaching.

Meeson, Elsie R. Arithmetic.

Owen, Louie. Theoretical Braille. Arithmetic.

Sumner, Peter S. Theory of Education. Practical Teaching. Arithmetic.

Wilson, Florence W. Practical Braille. Arithmetic. Practical Teaching.

There were twenty-five candidates, one man and twenty-four women, and twelve took their diplomas. The man is Mr. Sumner, one of the blinded soldiers, and it must be highly gratifying to him and to his teachers that he has passed the examination, and with Honours in three subjects, after only a few months application to his studies, and to learn Braille by touch.

On June 24th, at 2 p.m., there was a meeting of the Council of the College, when there were present Miss Bell, Miss Foakes, Miss Garaway, Miss Scott, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Dixon, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, Pine, Ritchie, Stainsby. Thurman and H. J. Wilson in the chair. Several members wrote regretting their inability to be present. A letter from the Rev. Barton Mills was read resigning his membership of the Council of the College.

The report of the Committee in regard to Miss Garaway's proposal that all certificate holders should *ipso facto* become members of the Council on payment of 5/- each annually was read and referred back to the Committee with certain suggestions for consideration.

It was proposed by Mr. Pine, seconded by Mr. Thurman, and resolved unanimously that in paragraph 7 of the Foundation Deed the word "annual" be omitted. The paragraph therefore now reads as follows:—"Future members of the Council shall

be elected at the meetings of the Council, etc." instead of at "the annual meetings" as hitherto.

Consequent on this resolution, the following, whose names had been submitted to the Hon. Registrar a week previously, were nominated and elected members of the Council, viz.:—The Misses S. Bryan, J. E. Butler, K. Cramp, K. M. Ellis, C. V. Girdwood, M. Holmes, D. L. Jones, S. A. B. Matthews, C. Norris and E. M. Ridley, Messrs. G. Gadsby and P. Gray.

28. A movement is on foot to raise a memorial to the late Dr. Fletcher Little, to whom we have frequently referred in these pages, as a specialist in training the Blind in massage. We understand that the memorial will take the form of apparatus for the instruction of blinded soldiers in massage.

29. The 29th Conference of the Scottish Outdoor Blind Teachers' Union was held at Glasgow on June 8th and 9th. The meetings were well attended. Miss Lyall, Superintendent of the Aberdeen Home Teaching Society for the Blind was appointed as the representative of the Scottish Home Teaching Societies on the National Uniform Braille Committee. An address was given at the public meeting by Mr. J. Frew Bryden on "The work among the outdoor Blind." Papers were read on "The work of a Ladies Auxiliary," "Home Teaching and Libraries," "The relation of the State to the Blind," and "Preventable Blindness."

30. We feel sure that the following graphic account by Mr. W. R. Armstrong, Superintendent of the Richmond National Institution for the Blind, Dublin, will be read with much interest:—"Various reports having been current with reference to certain incidents which occurred in Dublin during the recent rebellion I am glad to furnish your readers with an account of some of my experiences in the Richmond National Institution for the Blind.

The Institution building is situated about 300 yards north

of the General Post Office on the west side of Upper Sackville Street, and extends to Moore Lane at the rear.

The rebels took possession of the General Post Office at noon on 24th April, and held it until the night of 28th, when it was destroyed by fire. They also occupied houses in Moore Lane and Sackville Street. During the interval the military held positions in Parnell Street, which runs at right angles with Sackville Street and Moore Street, about sixty yards north of our premises. Consequently we were inside the field of battle all the time. Though several people—military and civilians—were shot in Sackville Street on 24th, 25th, and 26th April, it was possible for some who ventured to enter and leave houses in the street. Several of the outdoor workers and staff came to work on 25th and 26th, but only a few who live near the Institution could do so on 27th. The military present up to this had been few in number. At about 3 p.m. on 27th they arrived in force, with artillery; and rifle firing in both front and rear of the Institution became severe, and at times furious. At about 5 p.m. the artillery, which had taken up a position at the corner of Parnell Street, about 100 yards from us, fired five shells into the front of the Y.M.C.A., which is two doors to the south of the Institution. Several bullets and three 15-pounder shells were then discharged into our front, making two large holes in the brickwork and doing considerable damage in the servants' dormitory and my apartments. I am thankful to say that no one was hurt, and the firing into our premises ceased when I remonstrated with the officer in command whom I approached under a Union Jack flag. The officer had been misled by false reports. From the military headquarters instructions were then given me to remove the inmates from the building, and arrangements were made accordingly, but next morning it was found impossible to carry out the order with safety, and it was cancelled. With the assistance of the military officers, who proved very friendly, and furnished me with permits and escorts I was able to obtain bread and tinned foods sufficient for those in the house until 1st May, when the worst of the trouble was over.

The fires which destroyed the greater part of Lower Sackville Street and several blocks of buildings in the vicinity were very alarming. At one time I had almost given up hope that the Institution would escape destruction.

During the progress of the fight the blind inmates removed several tons of willows from a large wooden shed which was in an exposed position, and everything of an inflammable kind which could be removed to the basement was brought there. It was also found necessary to guard against possible inroads of rebels from adjoining premises. I have pleasure in recording that during the whole time the staff and inmates, though naturally alarmed, never faltered in their duty."

31. There has been recently such a remarkable development in the National Library for the Blind that we venture to make some excerpts from the report for 1915 to illustrate this progress.

"It is with deep regret that the Committee have to announce the resignation of their Chairman, Mr. E. C. Hamley, who for seven years has worked devotedly for the Library. They wish to place on record their cordial appreciation of his services during this prolonged period, and to express their satisfaction that his name is still to be associated with the work in the capacity of Patron.

The Committee are happy to welcome among them Lady Nicholson of Eden, Mr. H. J. Wilson of Gardner's Trust, Mr. A. A. Allen, M.P., and Mr. W. Peacock.

On Mr. Hamley's resignation Sir Walter Hillier, K.C.M.G., C.B., the Hon. Treasurer, kindly consented to act as Chairman, *pro tem.*, but health forcing him to resign this second office, Mr. Wilson consented to take the Chair.

By the great generosity of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the year under review has been one of extraordinary development and promise for the Library.

The Committee desire to place on record their deep and

abiding gratitude to the Trustees, who have thus publicly recognised the value of the work done by the Library, and raised what was but a small private charity, precariously maintained, to the opportunities and dignity of a National Library for the Blind in the fullest sense of the term.

Satisfied of the national scope of the work, the Trustees first gave to the Library 4,200 Braille volumes (representing thirty copies of twenty-eight separate works), and then, realising that lack of space was the main obstacle to efficiency, they made a grant for the purchase of a fine, commodious building, No. 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, formerly the property of the Architectural Association.

By means of a further grant from the Trust the building has been adapted and shelved for Library purposes, and the work is now being carried on under the most pleasant and advantageous conditions.

The property has been acquired for 986 years, and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have generously reduced the ground rent by £40 per annum. A further grant from the Carnegie Trustees has reduced the ground rent, so that the annual charge will be £70 a year less than that paid for the cramped, inadequate premises in Queen's Road.

In addition to the ordinary work of the Library, it is intended to inaugurate a Reading Room where the Blind may come and read in peace and comfort. Gifts of solid chairs, tables and a few desks are urgently needed to furnish this room and the offices.

Though it does not actually fall within the period under review the Committee feel that this is a suitable opportunity to announce the gracious act of H.R.H. the Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, who came in person to 18, Tufton Street, when it was in the hands of the builders, and, as President of the Library, formally received the gift of the Building from Lord Shaw of Dunfermline, representing the Carnegie Trustees.

It is hoped to hold a formal opening of the Library to the Public in the Autumn of 1916.

The number of volumes of literature added during 1915 (exclusive of the 4,200 from the Carnegie Trust) was 1,384, and of music, 293.

Many volunteers have been instructed in writing Braille, twelve of whom have taken the Library's certificate during the year, and one has taken honours.

A list is given of the Library's fifty-eight voluntary workers now teaching at St. Dunstan's Hostel.

The increase in the number of individual readers was 130, exclusive of those who obtain the books through Libraries and Institutes.

The number of Public Libraries supplied with books was increased from fifty-nine to sixty-seven.

The number of Institutions and Societies for the Blind supplied with books increased from sixty-five to sixty-nine.

The circulation of volumes for the year was 47,093.

Thirty blind writers were employed from the Dow Fund in addition to seventeen at Brighton.

One hundred and eighty-four readers were assisted in the cost of carriage from the Arnold Carriage Fund.

The correctors, voluntary and paid, revised 873 volumes during the year.

Readers will be glad to hear that an exchange of books has been arranged between the Paris Library and the National Library. Some few books have already been received and are available.

The entire work of circulation is now carried on by women, and by one boy under fifteen years of age.

By a special resolution of the Committee, the Library has been made free to all members of H.M. Forces blinded in the War."

32. The thirty-sixth anniversary of the North London Homes for Aged Christian Blind was celebrated on June 1st.

The annual report showed that there were 129 inmates, of whom sixty were over seventy years of age, nineteen were over eighty, and one lady was ninety-five. Sixteen cases had been admitted during the year. Over 2,000 visits had been paid for the purpose of reading and singing to the inmates.

The financial statement was encouraging, as in every account the balance was on the right side, although some anxiety had been experienced by the committee on account of the rise in the prices of all commodities in all directions.

33. The sales last year at some of the Institutions for the Blind were very large. At the one at Bradford they amounted to over £16,367, being an increase of more than £2,300 over the previous year, and £3,594 were paid to the Blind in wages and allowances, in addition to a war bonus of £399 9s. from the City Council. And at the Liverpool Workshops the sales amounted to the very large sum of £30,305, at Dundee to £10,874, and at Birmingham to the record figure of £24,006.

34. The Committee of the Royal Blind Asylum Workshops, Bristol, in conjunction with the Incorporated Soldiers and Sailors Help Society, are opening workshops for the training and employment of disabled Soldiers and Sailors, those generally disabled as well those with loss of sight. A large workroom has been placed at the disposal of this department, and machinery for woodworking, carpentry, and especially for boring and preparing wood for brush-making is being installed. It is hoped that this will be of advantage to our disabled soldiers and to blind workers in the preparation of material necessary to their employment.

THE UNION OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

North of England Union. During the last few months several changes have taken place in this Union.

Upon the resignation of Miss Sadgrove, Miss Bellhouse

who had had some years' experience with the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society, was appointed Organising Secretary. She took up the work on April 17th.

Since that date, an office has been opened, and the Union's official address is now Temple Chambers. Brazennose Street, Manchester. This is a good central position, easily accessible from any of the railway stations, and it is hoped that members visiting this city will find it useful.

The new Secretary has found means of helping nine cases, so far, and others are in process of being adequately dealt with.

Visits have been made to Preston, Lytham, Oldham (2), St. Helen's, Prescott, York, Darlington (2) and also to Glasgow, in response to an invitation to attend the conference of the Scottish Outdoor Blind Teachers' Union.

It is hoped to establish a complete and detailed Register of the Blind in the Union's area, which will be useful for statistical and general purposes and to link the work on to that of the other Unions. Special leaflets have been forwarded to the various Societies upon which the information belonging to each case may be entered. These, when completed, are returned to the Office, and there index cards to correspond are filled in and filed in the Register cabinet.

The present time is not propitious for the starting of new Societies, but much may be done in gathering information for use in happier times, and in nursing the younger Societies and rendering help wherever and in whatever way required.

Metropolitan Union. Meetings of the Executive Council have been held on May 6th and July 1st, at 11 a.m., when the ordinary routine business has been transacted. The Case Committee, who meet regularly once a month, have dealt with a great many cases, and having obtained assistance for them, have benefited them very materially

North West Union. It is with very deep regret we have to report the sudden death, early in May, of the Chairman of

this Union, the Rev. Canon Binney. Although he had only been connected with the Union for less than two years, he had gained a thorough knowledge, and sympathy with the work for the welfare of the Blind. He showed his keen interest by many acts of kindness, and had endeared himself to all his fellow workers. His wisdom, judgment, and decided opinions will be a great loss, not only to the Secretary and Committee, but to the whole district.

Western Counties Union. A meeting of the Committee was held at the Institution for the Blind, Plymouth, on Friday, March 31st. In the absence of the Chairman, the Rev. E. G. Cocks presided. In addition to members of the Union Committee there were present by invitation many of the members of the Plymouth and Devonport Institutions. The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were read and adopted. Mrs. Vere Stead, the Organizing Secretary, gave a report of her work. She notified her intention to be absent from this country on a visit to South America for a year dating from this summer. A Sub-Committee was appointed to make provision for the work in her absence. (This Sub-Committee has been most fortunate in securing the services of Miss King, whose work for the Blind in other districts is well known). A long discussion took place on "The Blind in the Three Towns," with special reference to those not in any Institution. A report was given by the Organizing Secretary on the cases of blinded soldiers in the six counties area. Representatives to the Union of Unions were chosen.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR TEACHING AND TRAINING THE BLIND.—(Incorporated).

By Mr. J. M. Ritchie, M.A., Superintendent and Secretary,

In 1837 Mr. Lucas, who had invented a stenographic system of reading for the blind and had taught some pupils to use it, came to London for the purpose of giving to the world the benefit of his discovery. The enthusiasm with which he set

about his task was contagious, and though he himself died shortly afterwards, a Society was formed in January, 1838, to carry on the work. This Society, called "The London Society for Teaching the Blind to Read," was from the outset filled with intense pride in the Lucas system, an unswerving conviction of its superiority over all rivals, and missionary zeal for its propagation.

Before the First Annual Report was issued, the infant Society had outgrown its premises in Hart Street and had moved to No. 6, Gloucester Street, Queen's Square, Bloomsbury; had secured the patronage of, and twenty guineas from, Queen Victoria; numbered fifty-three pupils and had passed out twelve as efficient manipulators of the system. It provided accommodation for boarders at the rate of £10 for six months. This period was considered sufficient for the learning of the system, and though this may seem somewhat scanty, examples are given of pupils who read fluently after a much shorter term of tuition. The Society was thus from its beginning marked off from the Asylum type of Institution in which inmates hoped to find a permanent home. Its function to begin with, was defined by its title, though very early in its career, by 1845, it included in its curriculum, writing, arithmetic, geography, geometry, handicrafts and music.

The proselytising spirit is strong in the early Reports of the Society. By 1841 it is urging for uniformity of type. As its system is by far the best, let competitors give up the hopeless race and share in the benefits of the incomparable Lucas. Its missionaries went afield. Exeter changed its type to Lucas, while Bath, Nottingham, Leamington and Plymouth were founding centres for its teaching. A school was to be established in Cairo, books in Arabic and modern Greek were to bring light to the darkness of the East; and three Chinese girl pupils were preparing to act as pioneers in their native land.

By this year, 1841, its staff included a master, a matron and two blind assistants on the boys' side, a mistress, a matron and two blind assistants on the girls' side, as well as teachers of music and basketwork. Its receipts for the year were over £1,000, it wished a separate fund for embossing the Scriptures

and spoke hopefully of compositing as a suitable employment for blind boys. In 1842 an instructor was engaged to train girls in basketwork, and a testimonial to the music teaching is recorded in the appointment in 1847 of a girl of 15 to a post as organist.

1843 was marked by a lively controversy with Mr. Frere. A lengthy manifesto was sent to the Privy Council on Education complaining of Mr. Frere's want of candour and slight regard for truth and upholding the superiority of its own cherished system. The letter is written with admirable dignity and restraint, a model not invariably followed for all future controversies on type. In the following year, the Lucas system was adapted to music.

For some years the house in Gloucester Street had been inadequate for growing needs, and the inclusion of a neighbouring house was regarded as but a temporary expedient. The Society was anxious to have a building specially designed for its own needs and so there was much satisfaction when in October, 1847, the building at Swiss Cottage was completed at a cost of about £4,500. In the following March the Society took up its quarters in the new building. In those days the site was a country one. The distance from town was such that the attendance of day pupils was impracticable, and centres for them in crowded districts were spoken of. The Committee were delighted with the fresh air of Hampstead and the sight of their pupils playing on Primrose Hill.

Lucas type, which, since the death of its inventor, had been revised and modified by the Rev. J. W. Gwirling, a blind clergyman and the Society's expert in these matters, is still the subject of enthusiastic encomiums, and the purchase of a new fount, smaller than the first and therefore reducing the bulkiness of the volumes by one-third, is announced with acclamation.

In 1850, the management decided not to admit boarders over 14 years of age—an interesting forerunner of that separation of adults from children, which has been going on in many schools in recent years.

In 1851, samples of the work done at the School were sent to the Great Exhibition, as was also done in the case of the

Paris Exhibition of 1900. The Committee had indeed a keen eye for its public, though they never fell into the error of making a show of their pupils. On the contrary they speak of them in a refreshingly healthy manner; comment divertedly on the fondness of the boys for climbing the garden trees, and ask for funds to erect a gymnasium in which the youngsters might work off their superfluous energy in a manner more pleasing to the management. They approve of the children having garden plots to cultivate, and in short, write about the doings of the boys and girls with a literary skill and a psychological insight rare in Blind School Reports. Far off whispers of the larger world are faintly heard. It is feared, for instance, that the War in the Crimea would affect the prosperity of the Society. In 1863 reference is made to the distress in the North, and in 1867 to the commercial disasters of the year.

In 1854, it was decided to admit a certain number of free pupils annually by election of the subscribers. As years went on this number increased until it exceeded the number of those for whom payment was received. It was a generous scheme, but constituted a heavy drain on the funds of the Institution, and a source of financial anxiety to the management, which continued till recent years. On two occasions the expedient of a Festival Dinner was called in to supplement the ceaseless effort to raise an income which would comfortably meet expenditure. These were in the years 1896 and 1907. Lord Russell of Killowen, Lord Chief Justice of England, presided at the first, and Lord Alverstone, his successor in office, at the second. Over £1,300 were added to the funds on each occasion, showing significantly the influence of good cheer on liberality.

From its early days the Committee interested themselves in the careers of pupils after leaving school. Those who get posts as organists, and of these there is a steady succession, are watched with interest; others are encouraged to inaugurate home teaching in their own districts, two are mentioned in 1861. as making their living as commercial travellers, and one is retained as a canvasser in the City for goods made at the School.

That the Committee's interest in this direction was thoroughly aroused is shown by the fact, that in 1859, they

added to the title of the Society the phrase, "and for training them in industrial occupations." Training was given in Music, Beadwork (then evidently more commercially useful than now), Knitting, Matmaking, Brushmaking, Basketmaking and Chair-caning, while one or two found employment in the embossing department. This embossing department remained an important feature of the Institution. The latest portions of the Bible were slow in appearing, and were preceded by the Pilgrim's Progress in 1860. That year is interesting for the hint of a renewal of the type controversy, though this time the antagonism was between Roman Letter and the stenographic systems.

1861 was a year of gloom. Lack of funds weighed on the minds of the Committee to such an extent that it was proposed to wind up the Society. A few stalwarts saw better days ahead, and strenuously opposed the suggestion. The result was that many of the Committee resigned and the stalwarts were left with the task of justifying their faith. This they did with an energy that brought almost immediate success. In 1863 the Society was out of debt, and a building fund set on foot to increase greatly the accommodation. Strenuous work must have been done, for in 1865 the new wings were opened, providing a handsome Concert Hall on the North side of the building, and a printing room and dormitories on the south. The driving force of the new Committee lasted for several years more. The very next year a large and particularly fine organ was installed by Willis in the new Hall, and the Committee began to talk about the urgent necessity for new kitchens and dining room. A branch for the sale of goods was opened at Tunbridge Wells and other watering places suggested as future markets. In 1868 the funds were again diminishing but the work progressed. Chair caning was introduced to the girls and tuning added to the list of occupations for the boys. The embossing was now being done by means of stereotyped plates, and not by moveable types as formerly; and a new and powerful press was bought in 1869.

In an outline of the Society's career, first printed in 1890, it is stated that the Braille system was "introduced into the School in 1861 by Professor Hippolyte Van Landagen of the Belgian

Institution and Musical Notation by the same system in 1871." It is to be feared that the introduction of 1861 led only to the chilliest of acquaintanceships for many years to come.

The latter date has external support, for Dr. (afterwards Sir George) Macfarren, who then accepted the post of Honorary Examiner in Music and who did much in the years that followed to stimulate and encourage the work, expressed in his very first Report the pleasure he felt on finding that some of the pupils already used the Braille Notation. The general acceptance of Braille for ordinary reading seems to have followed rather than preceded its use in Music. At least, it is with a reluctance that is pathetic and with a panegyric on Lucas as a preface, that the Report for 1874 confesses that license has been given for the teaching of Braille.

The Honorary Examiner of the education then given in the school speaks highly of the work done. Even more notable than the excellence found in such high sounding branches of learning as "etymology" is the plain statement that the spelling is good. How could pupils labouring as they were under the disadvantages of a shorthand system for their reading succeed in having their spelling marked good? Were the teachers of those days more redoubtable or was the standard less exacting?

"Taylor's Arithmetic by movable types was introduced in 1877 with great advantage to the pupils."

In 1878 a second addition to the building took place. This comprised a roomy dining hall, new kitchen and scullery, and on the first floor dormitories and sick wards. The cost, over £4,000, was defrayed by a fund which had been got together rather laboriously during the previous ten years. The financial statements which appeared from year to year about this time are despondent. The Committee did not favour the Prussian proverb that attack is the best defence, but sought timidly to entrench themselves on the ground already won. Thus, when in 1881 the legacy of £10,000 from the late Henry Gardner was paid over, there was no wild whirl of ideas as to how it should be spent, but only a groan at the dreadful thought that annual

subscriptions might be dried up in consequence of so large a bequest.

Some interesting visits are recorded in this period. Japanese Commissioners studied the working of the Institution in 1873, while in 1881 a party of girls from the School for the Blind in Paris stayed at Swiss Cottage during their week's visit to London and in the same year a party of Italian Blind from Milan also enjoyed its hospitality.

A "typewriting machine" was purchased in 1877. This it was "hoped might be readily utilised by the pupils from the resemblance the manner of operating on it has to the piano."

The year 1882 brought little vigour and no confidence to the minds of the Committee. The School Board of London was discussing the education of its Blind children; it was possible that the fortune of the late Mr. Gardner might be expended in the foundation of a large residential school; the Normal College at Norwood was year by year growing more and more attractive to the musically gifted Blind. The times were out of joint, not for the Blind, but for Swiss Cottage, and like Hamlet, the Committee fell to talk of self destruction. Amalgamation with Norwood was proposed and nearly carried through. From this second crisis the School emerged in 1885, impaired, but independent, with only forty-five pupils but with a new Committee.

Books were still being printed in Lucas type for those who had learned and preferred that system; while, in the School, Braille, Lucas and Moon were taught "as desired" a regime to be commended for its catholicity but for little else.

In an 1887 list of old pupils who are earning their own livings, mention is made of one who is doing well as a poultry dealer, and another as a postman. How the latter managed is an enigma to which no solution is given.

The Society celebrated its Jubilee in 1888. In this year the grounds were cut through by a new road which ran alongside the Concert Hall. In exchange for this, a small piece of land was added to the playground. The Concert Hall was lengthened,

an organ chamber which projected northwards was removed, and the organ rebuilt within the Hall. Gardner's Trust contributed £300 towards defraying the outlay thus incurred. The same year central heating was installed, and basket shops built in a detached position to the back. The shops cost over £400, but added greatly to the usefulness of the Society in that it was now able to give regular employment to a number of journeymen basketmakers.

During the next twenty years the Society accomplished much quiet and steady work. There is little of the spectacular in their record, but all the more of solid worth on that account.

In 1891, the embossing of Lucas was finally given up and the room in which that had been carried on was turned into a Sale Room for work done by the Blind. Tuning rooms, erected at a cost of £350 were opened in 1893, and in the same year the school welcomed its most distinguished visitor Herbert Spencer, who came to investigate sensitiveness of touch in the pupils. A new workroom for the senior girls was built in 1894 and a printing room for Braille in 1899, the printing itself had been begun in 1894. This printing house has done excellent service, contributing many useful school books, not otherwise procurable, a good selection of the works of Sir A. Conan Doyle and the *Hampstead Magazine*. The *Hampstead* was started in 1903 and was a success from the outset. In bringing relaxation to others, it has also helped itself, for by its widespread clientèle it has made Swiss Cottage known wherever Braille is read.

In 1907 the Society entered on a new stage of its career, for in September of that year it became a Certified School under the Board of Education. Free pupils ceased to be admitted, and the gradually increasing sums of money in fees from Local Education Authorities and in Grants from the Board of Education have done much to mitigate the financial strain and worry of earlier years.

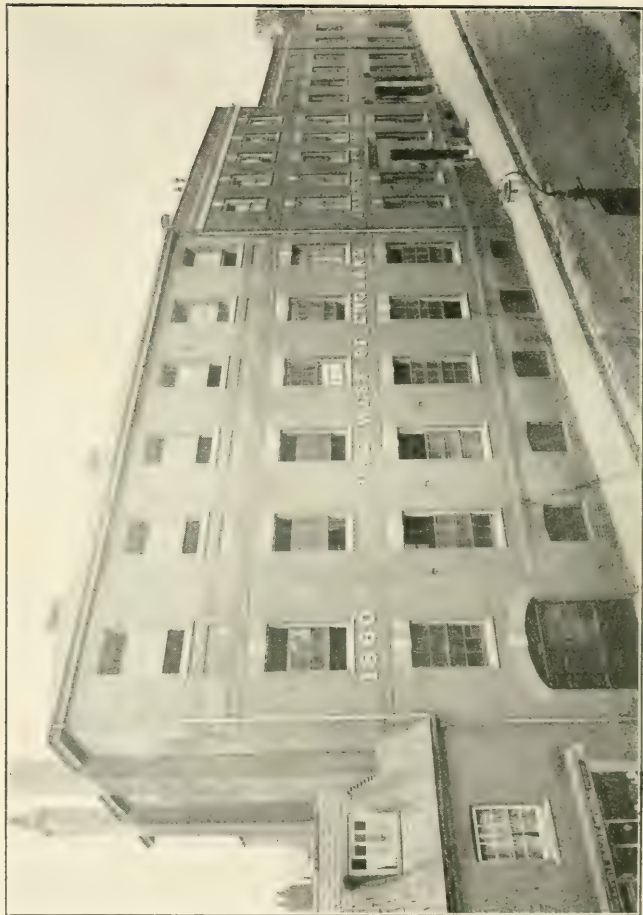
A Machine Knitting Department was opened for the senior girls in 1910, and a Boot-repairing department for the senior boys a couple of years ago. The latter has made an encouraging start, while in the former a number of girls have already been

fully trained and are now making over £1 weekly in machine knitting workrooms.

Towards the end of 1912, the third large extension of the main building was completed. New class rooms were provided for the elementary school, and the Front Hall was enlarged and made into a Showroom and Saleroom. These alterations, which cost over £4,000, have proved a great benefit to the educational work of the Institution.

The first re-union of old pupils took place in 1910, and was so enthusiastically taken up that at the gathering in the following year over seventy former pupils attended. The value of after care is keenly appreciated by the Committee, but in such a connection it is perhaps invidious to single out any aspect of the work. The members of the Council take a personal interest in the welfare of the pupils and the staff. They are very anxiously studying how best to give a liberal education to the children in their charge; how adequately to train them in some pursuit by which each may earn a livelihood and lead an independent, self-respecting life; how, with this independence, to foster in the minds of all reverence and affection for the old school; to give confidence that that school, though it has sent them forth, has not shut its doors upon them but follows their vicissitudes with watchful sympathy, ready to congratulate in success and to succour when help is needed.

At present all plans for expansion and development must wait on peace for their fruition, but when the funds now placed at the direct service of the State return to their natural function, and when labour can be employed without prejudice to the national cause, a large future must open out for Swiss Cottage. The "salubrious suburban locality" of an early Report has become one of the busiest ganglia of the Metropolis, and circumstance has given to Swiss Cottage unexampled opportunities of dealing effectively with the Blind of an enormous area, and of attempting a solution of problems now barely touched. With what assiduity these problems will be faced and with what wisdom solved, it is for the future to declare.



WEST OF ENGLAND INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, EXETER. ESTABLISHED 1838.

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 76.

OCTOBER 20TH, 1916.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before December 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. Just on going to press, we hear with sincere regret that Lt.-Col. A. Nimmo Walker, R.A.M.C., has been killed in action. He was Hon. Surgeon to the School for the Blind at Liverpool, and was always ready to give valuable advice about the children. He was especially interested in Ophthalmia Neonatorum, about which he wrote a most interesting article in 1909 entitled "On the work of the Ophthalmia Ward in St. Paul's Hospital, Liverpool," to which he was also Hon. Surgeon. The Ward was a realization of a scheme, which he elaborated in a paper read before the North of England Union in December, 1907, and "the essence of the scheme consists of the immediate treatment of infants attacked with purulent ophthalmia, either in the special ward, whither the infant with its mother is removed by ambulance, or failing removal, in the out-patient department." Dr. Nimmo Walker was well-known in the "blind" world, and his death will be a very serious loss not only to the School for the Blind at Liverpool, but also to the Blind generally.

2. We little thought, when offering our congratulations in the July number of this Magazine to Mr. Hewitt, Manager of the Workshop for the Blind at Belfast, on the affection and respect evinced for him by the presentation of his portrait in oils from the staff and employees of the Workshop on his

completion of 38 years devoted service, that in our next issue we should have to give our deepest sympathy and condolence to him and Mrs. Hewitt on the loss of three gallant sons, one killed last year, and two others on the same day this year, while leading an attack in the great advance begun on July 1st. The letters we print below tell the heroic tale better than any words of ours could do, but we feel that our readers will wish to join with us in mourning the brave young lives so gloriously ended in defending their country, and in assuring the bereaved parents of our admiration of their sons, and our sorrow for their loss. Lieut. E. H. Hewitt, the King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment, was, as we have said, killed last year, and now Lieut. Holt M. Hewitt, 9th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, attached Brigade Machine Gun Company, and Second Lieut. W. A. Hewitt, 9th Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, have followed their brother and added their names to the imperishable Roll of Honour, which, as long as history endures, will bear witness to the courage and devotion shewn to Great Britain by her sons, who in her hour of need came willingly forward to her help, and "loved not their lives unto the death" if so they could defend her honour and ensure her safety. We often hear lamentations over the appalling waste of young life going on in this modern Armageddon, and truly the inevitable tears and bitter grief and desolation are terrible, most terrible to think of, but there is another side to it that should surely make us lift up our heads and see that our redemption draweth nigh, for the splendid self-sacrifice shewn by these young soldiers has left a shining example that must go far to lift our country out of the materialism that threatened to corrupt and destroy the race, and lead us back to simple righteousness, justice, and the fear of God. As has lately been finely said in a great daily paper, "the spirit of sacrifice is the spirit of regeneration."

May that spirit be ours!

July 6, 1916.

Dear Mr. Hewitt,—I hardly know how to write. A letter is such a poor thing. Your two boys were loved by everyone in the regiment. They had such sunny natures, together with

such sterling characters that they were an example and inspiration to all. I cannot give you details how Holt fell. Captain MacConochie, I am sure, will do that.

Your little lad Willie led his platoon over our parapet, and the last I saw of him was his happy smile as I wished him luck. They got across to the German trenches in front of which they came under an appalling machine-gun fire. Your lad was hit, and Sergeant Lally, who is now in hospital wounded, was with him when he passed over.

The Ulster Division achieved the impossible. Outside testimony says that our advance was probably the most wonderful thing that even this war has seen, and no other troops, I believe, would have continued to advance in the face of the fire they met. This brigade got to the objective allotted. . . .

It was a sad day for us, and I feel quite stunned and heart-broken. Your Willie was one of the nicest-minded boys I ever knew. My wife saw a letter he wrote to the widow of a man in his company, and she told me it was the most beautiful letter of sympathy she had ever read. No one but a spiritually-minded boy could have written such a letter.

I made him my assistant-adjutant, and of all my young lads I could spare him the least. No words can express the sympathy we all feel for yourself and Mrs. Hewitt and your family in this grievous double blow. I cannot write more.—
Yours very sincerely,

A. RICARDO,

Lieut.-Col. 9th R. Inniskillings Fusiliers
(Tyrone Volunteers).

Lieutenant E. W. Crawford, the adjutant, has written as follows :—

July 6.

My Dear Mr. Hewitt,

I suppose you will have heard that both Holt and Willie fell in the attack we made last Saturday. Your loss is so terrible that any words of mine are of little worth. Poor Holt, the most lovable and cheerful of souls! His sergeant says he was killed outright. He was one of my closest friends, and although

he had gone to the Machine Gun Corps we, of the 9th (Innis-killings), considered him ours. Willie led his platoon fearlessly over the top. One of his men told me that he was wounded but still carried on, but had to stop—from loss of blood. After that the only thing I can gather is that Sergeant Lally, of his battery, who himself was wounded, said he saw him die. He was a grand boy, one of the finest characters I have seen. He acted as assistant adjutant to me, and no more conscientious and better boy ever lived. The whole attack was the most heroic thing possible. The Divisional General, speaking of it, said it was the most gallant and heroic incident of the war. The pity of it was we lost our best, both officers and men. Nothing on this head can atone for your losses, but you have the certain knowledge that theirs was a fine and fitting finish to a fine life. Personally I cannot tell you how I feel. I have lost two of the best of friends. I am sending you on Willie's kit. If I can tell you anything more, or if I can do anything for you, please do not hesitate to let me know. With much sympathy and kindest regards, I am, yours very sincerely,

E. W. CRAWFORD, Adjutant.

3. We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Cecil Jewell just after having taken his final examination in law with great credit, and when he was looking forward to practise as a Solicitor. We know how well he worked, and how thorough and conscientious he was. Although he had indifferent health, he was determined to overcome the disability of blindness and to support himself by his own efforts. His short life was a good example to the Blind in industry and perseverance, and shows what they can accomplish.

4. On August 19th, at the age of 76, Valentine Charles passed away. He was well known in Monmouthshire, having been visitor and teacher of the Newport Blind Aid Society for 30 years. He was organist at one church for 12 years, and at another for 35 years. He went blind at the age of 14 from a blow in the eyes by a playmate, and earned his living as organist, teacher of music, and pianoforte tuner. He was of fine physique,

being over 6 feet 2 inches in height, and was much beloved in his county.

5. Lt.-Col. T. R. Jolly, V.D., H.M. Territorial Force retired, and now commanding West Lancashire National Reserve, No. 3 District, has been added to the Commission of the Peace for the borough of Preston by the Chancellor of the Duchy. Col. Jolly is Chairman of the North of England Union, and has been Secretary of the Preston Institution for the Blind and of the Harris Orphanage for many years.

6. All who are interested in the Blind, especially in the question of pensions, owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Stuart Johnson for bringing out another appendix to the volume "Annuities for the Blind," published in 1910. The preface dated June 1916, shews clearly the great care that has been taken in the lists in order to avoid mistakes. There have been considerable alterations and several additions since the last appendix was published. It is stated by Mr. Johnson that "owing to the war, quite unforeseen difficulties have arisen in printing the edition," but these words put the case with restraint, and we sympathise with the editor in the great difficulties which arose, and congratulate him in overcoming them. Copies of "Annuities for the Blind," published in 1910, can still be obtained from the publishers, Messrs. Longman.

7. Two more students of the Royal Normal College for the Blind have distinguished themselves.

Mr. Henry G. Newell, who was at the School for the Blind at Brighton before going to the College, was successful in gaining the Diploma of the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, and Mr. Sinclair Logan, Glasgow, the Diploma of the Associateship.

Mr. Newell was also successful in winning the "Lafontaine" Prize for the Fellowship, which is the first time that this prize has been won by a blind person.

Mr. Newell is now the 19th student of the College who

has won the Fellowship Degree, while 48 have won the Associateship.

Fourteen of the 19 Fellows, including Mr. Newell, were Gardner Scholars, and 34 of the 48 Associates also held Gardner Scholarships.

The students from the College were the first blind people in the world to take the degrees of the Royal College of Organists, and were the first to win their prizes, all of which they have now won, namely : —

“Lafontaine” Fellowship Prize—Henry Newell, July, 1916.

„ Associateship Prize—Victor Spanner, 1907.

„ Associateship Prize—Sydney Anstey, 1910.

“Sawyer” Prize—Andrew Fraser, 1913.

“Turpin” Prize—Wilfrid Kershaw (the late), 1914.

8. The special articles in *The Blind* for 1917 will be as follows, viz., for the January number the history of the Incorporated Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, London, W., by Mr. Howard Mullins, F.C.I.S., Secretary and Manager; for the April number the history of the Sheffield Institution and School for the Blind, by Mr. Samuel Maddocks, Superintendent and Secretary; for the July number the history of the Swansea and South Wales Institution for the Blind, by Mr. Joseph Hall, Hon. Secretary; and for the October number the history of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, by Mr. G. C. Brown, Principal.

9. In our last number, paragraph 24, we referred with pleasure and satisfaction to the formation of a representative National Committee to consider the proposals made by the American Commission on Uniform Type for the Blind, and we have now to report that the first meeting of the new National Uniform Type Committee was held at the National Institute for the Blind on Friday, July 28th, at 2.30 p.m. The members of the Committee are as follows :—

Association of Teachers of the Blind—Miss Brautigam, Messrs. A. P. Pearson and J. M. Ritchie.

British and Foreign Bible Society—The Rev. Arthur Taylor and Mr. F. A. J. Burns.

College of Teachers of the Blind—Miss Garaway, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and Mr. H. J. Wilson.

Edinburgh School for the Blind—Mr. W. M. Stone.

Embossed Scientific Book Fund—Mr. H. M. Taylor, F.R.S.

Home Teaching Societies—England, Miss Gilbert and Mr. W. H. Thurman. Scotland, Miss I. Lyall.

Libraries—Mrs. Danckwerts, Miss E. W. Austin, and Mr. W. H. Dixon.

National Institute for the Blind—Sir C. Arthur Pearson, Bart., Dr. Ranger, Messrs. W. P. Merrick, and H. Stainsby.

Residential Schools with more than 50 pupils—Messrs. Guy M. Campbell, B. P. Jones, and M. J. Myers.

There were present at the meeting Mr. Wilson in the chair, Mrs. Danckwerts, Miss E. W. Austin, Miss Brautigam, Miss Gilbert, Miss Lyall, the Rev. A. Taylor, Messrs. Burns, Campbell, Merrick, Myers, A. P. Pearson, Ritchie, Stainsby, and Stone.

Before proceeding to business the Committee expressed their sincere sympathy with Sir C. A. Pearson in his illness.

Letters regretting their inability to be present were read from Miss Garaway, Sir C. Arthur Pearson, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. B. P. Jones, H. M. Taylor, and Thurman.

Sir C. Arthur Pearson was appointed Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Henry J. Wilson Vice-Chairman, and Mr. F. A. J. Burns Hon. Secretary.

After an explanatory statement by Mr. Stainsby as to the present position *in re* uniformity of Point Types, the following were appointed a Sub-Committee, viz. : Miss H. C. Russell, Messrs. Burns, Ford, Merrick, Myers, A. P. Pearson, and Stone to consider the proposals and report to the Committee. The Sub-Committee met later in the day and elected Mr. Stone as their Chairman.

We cannot forbear quoting the editorial on this subject from that interesting and instructive magazine *The Teacher of the*

Blind as follows ;—"A National Uniform Committee has been formed. Its constitution should give general and lively satisfaction. It is representative and comprehensive. As a piece of machinery, that constitution is a valuable addition to the world of the Blind, and in the days to come its aid will be sought in matters other than Braille which require for their settlement a national voice. It is a precedent of permanent value for united and corporate action.

For the present, though the decisions of the Committee may have momentous effects, the scope of its activity is limited. Our American co-workers have decided to adopt British Braille, if we can come to terms with them on the matter of certain changes which they suggest. This is narrowing the point at issue to something finer than a short time ago seemed possible. It is a great opportunity, and everyone will wish the Committee well as it settles down to its task."

10. We would remind our readers that forms of application for Hetherington's Charity of £10 a year are issued only this month by the clerk, Christ's Hospital, 26 and 27, Great Tower Street, London, E.C. Applicants must be over 55 years of age, have been totally blind for at least a year, have never received parish relief, and have not begged in the streets.

11. The following books in Braille have been recently added to the Public Library at Oxford, viz., the Epistles to the Galatians and to the Ephesians, and the First Epistle to the Corinthians, all in Greek, a translation of Plato's "Apology," and Egerton's "Canadian Constitutional Development."

12. The Editor of *The Weekly Summary for the Blind*—a newspaper in Braille type, established 1882—has printed in Braille a very interesting account of the late Lord Kitchener entitled "Lord Kitchener: Some Landmarks in his Career." The price with paper cover is only 4d. post free, and without cover 2½d. Copies can be obtained from the Editor. Shere, Surrey.

13. The Examinations of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships tenable at the Royal Normal College are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E.

14. An interesting return has been prepared by the Secretary of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind on the causes of blindness of the pupils born since 1895 and admitted to the Institution, including the kindergarten. They number 248, and the chief cause of blindness has been ophthalmia neonatorum. It is interesting to note that in 1912 220 cases of this disease were reported, of which one became totally blind, and 12 had their sight permanently damaged; in 1913 222 were reported, 3 became totally blind, and 9 had their sight permanently damaged; and in 1914 395 cases were reported, and in 1915 314, of which none became totally blind, and in each year only 5 had their sight permanently damaged.

THE ANNUAL PRIZE FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL NORMAL COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND.

This Festival took place on Tuesday, July 18th, in brilliant weather that came as a pleasant surprise after the many cold, dull, and wet days of the greater part of our summer, when we had almost begun to despair of summer coming at all. The College was honoured by the visit of the Lord and Lady Mayoress (Col. Sir Charles and Lady Wakefield) and the Sheriffs of the City of London. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs wore their robes and chains of office, and the Lady Mayoress distributed the prizes at the close of the inspection. After having been received by a Committee headed by the Right Hon. W. Hayes Fisher, P.C., M.P., the Lord Mayor and his party proceeded to view the different classes

engaged in the work so wonderfully and efficiently carried on at the College—reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, nature study, etc., as well as witnessing the remarkable skill shewn in the swimming bath in diving and life saving methods. In the Grosvenor Building the typewriting and Braille shorthand classes were seen with interest, and much wonder expressed at the proficiency attained. An adjournment was then made to the Concert Hall, where a fine programme of music was successfully gone through, and great enjoyment of it evidently felt by the audience. Following an organ recital in the Grosvenor Building by Mr. Osmond Davage, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.O., the college choir gave part songs, comprising “Sir Harold the Hunter” (West), “Dim-lit Woods” (Brahms), “Oh, can ye sew cushions?” (Bantock), and “Spring Phantasy” (Gade). Miss Bella Modiano sang with sweet soprano voice, “Deep in the Heart of the Rose,” and Mr. Bert French played skilfully the piano solo, “Rhapsody in B minor.” Miss Florence Houchin and Mr. Leonard Marsh, A.R.C.O., were the accompanists.

The presentation of the prizes was then made, and at the close of the proceedings the Lord Mayor said it had given the Lady Mayoress, himself, and the Sheriffs the greatest possible pleasure to be present. He came there in 1907, when a Sheriff, and the visit made a great impression on him at the time; the happy look on all the faces of the scholars, and the atmosphere of love that permeated all sections of the college. One thing that struck him that day, when a lady was dictating lessons to one of the scholars from the life of Milton, who was born in the Ward he represented—and, as they knew, Milton was blind—was that the spirit of Milton was hovering around that building that day, because he did believe in the Communion of Saints. On Friday he was at Margate, speaking to some hundred deaf and dumb children, and he was struck with the happiness that seemed to irradiate all their faces. He then said, and he said that day, life seemed to have its recompenses—where one lost a faculty, the other faculties were intensified, and in this way life was more or less equalised. He congratulated the ladies and gentlemen on being associated with this work of

bringing brightness into the lives of those less fortunate than themselves. He was sure if they could bring happiness, it was a quality, like mercy, twice blessed. God bless them in this noble work! It was an inspiration to all of them to do their best to throw a little light into the lives of others, especially in these dark times. It had given his wife immense pleasure to present the prizes. He had heard over and over again of the splendid work of the students trained there, and how successful they became, and if in this way they could teach them a trade, and so make them self-respecting, he was sure that it was a splendid work. He hoped that their work would continue to bring sunshine into the lives of many children.

The Right Hon. W. Hayes Fisher, M.P., moved a hearty vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. He spoke of the stimulus which the visit of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress would give them all, from the Principal down to the youngest scholar. The visit was well timed, the war shadow was over them, and the college had been very hard hit by the war. If they could only stop the war for one minute and the money for this minute be given to the College, they could pay the £3,000 debt to the bankers, and the £2,000 due on the new piano building, which would for ever be associated with Queen Alexandra. He could not help feeling bitter at the thought, when they all hoped the dawn of the day was approaching, and wealthy England was waking up to a sense of her responsibility for the Blind, that the war came. The consequence was that the Departmental Committee which had sat two years on the subject felt downcast. The Committee had the evidence and the report and recommendations, but no Chancellor of the Exchequer would find money for anything but the war. He hoped when the time came for the country to be concerned in peace problems instead of, as now, with war problems, the Departmental Committee to which he had referred would produce its report, and great institutions like that would be supported by the nation without having constantly to send round the hat. This was a national work, and should be supported by the nation. He was confident of this, that

when the Lord Mayor's turn of office was ended, of all the 365 days and nights which he had spent in discharging the onerous duties of the office, he would look back on none with greater pleasure than his visit to that College, the inmates of which, although they had not eyes to see, had ears to hear, and minds to remember the encouraging words which the Lord Mayor had addressed to them.

The Principal seconded the vote of thanks, and asked the Lord Mayor if he thought it had ever occurred to the City of London that it should be proud of that institution and the work which it had done for over 40 years for the nation. There were roughly 1,100 seeing people to every blind individual, which meant that there were 32,000 blind people. If every seeing person would give, say, a shilling a year for the privilege of sight, no blind person need go without the advantages of education. This was the only nation that had not provided State aid for the Blind.

The motion having been carried with cheers,

The Lord Mayor said that as it was an "omnibus vote" of thanks, he would allow another on the omnibus to reply.

Alderman Touche then returned thanks. He said he had long been familiar with the great work of Sir Francis Campbell and later of Mr. Guy Campbell, carried on there. From the national point of view it was good they should teach others who were blind to support themselves as far as possible. It was good also for the Blind that they should have an occupation. Music was as sight to the Blind—one of the compensations to which the Lord Mayor had referred—and as he listened in the concert room that day he felt that when blind people were playing there was a subtle quality in it which they never found under other circumstances. He thought the nation had been extraordinarily slow in recognising its duty to the Blind. It only required organization to give them all they needed. It was a matter, therefore, of congratulation that Mr. Hayes Fisher was the Chairman of a Departmental Committee which had gone into the subject and would report after the war.

The visitors then inspected the pianoforte tuning building, and witnessed other exercises in addition to those of the early afternoon.

THE OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC OF THE FRENCH LIGHT-HOUSE FOR MEN BLINDED IN BATTLE.

By Miss Winifred Holt, President of the American Committee
in Paris for Men Blinded in Battle.

On August 8th, 1916, the President of the French Republic and the American Ambassador opened the French Lighthouse for the Blind. A round shield hung on the stones which separate the two glass doors of the Lighthouse. On the shield Mr. Cauldwell had painted a Lighthouse. It was set high on rocks in troubled waters. From its lamp shone three bright rays, signifying "Liberté, Fraternité, and Egalité." Framing this Lighthouse, like a life-buoy, were the words: "Ex tenebris Lux" ["Out of Darkness, Light."]

Behind the doors the vast hall of the old Palace was filled with a quiet expectant throng. On the tall mantel, surrounded by oak leaves, with a background of French and American flags, a golden head of "La France" had been placed, so that the men blinded in battle might look with the ten eyes on their finger tips at the Republic, to whose ideals they had made such great sacrifice. To the left of the hall hung the Lighthouse flag with its rays, this time surmounting the Red Cross, on a background of white and yellow rays of light, a beautiful symbolic standard made by the same artist who wrought the shield.

Between the Lighthouse flag and beneath the golden Republic, in blue, stood a group of brightly uniformed officers—all blinded in battle. First came the Commandant, recently decorated as an Officer of the Legion of Honour—"Le beau . . ." he was called. Though his face has been greatly scarred and blinded, it is perhaps more heroic, more "beau" than ever before. Next to him was the Captain, in scarlet coat, blue trousers, and high black boots and spurs. His breast blazed with innumerable honours and the star conferred on him by an Oriental potentate. Talking to this hero stood another Captain, splendid in dark blue and gold uniform, and the

Meridional Lieutenant in the same impressive dress. Facing him was the blind Organist from Arras, then the wife of a former Minister and other friends.

The staff was radiant and dressed in its best, and well under the control of its Etat-Major, that eternally vigilant, efficient and sympathetic little lady, Mademoiselle de Villedon de Courson. She, who directs her bureau and assuages the wound of body and soul of her dear "poilus," was noiselessly, on that great day, everywhere. Her assistants, a Belgian gentleman (a réfugié from Brussels), a young réformé soldier, wounded by the Germans at Lille (they also shot his father and stole his mother) were vigilantly on the alert.

The Ambassador and his daughter were announced, and appreciatively welcomed. As two blue motors, with footmen and chauffeurs wearing the tricolour, appeared, the Ambassador accompanied the Gardienne to the foot of the steps.

Madame Poincaré and the President left their car. The Ambassador introduced the Gardienne to these charming representatives of the French nation. They mounted the steps and entered the great hall. There they were received by Mrs. Bliss, the wife of the Consul at the Embassy, Madame Waddington, Mr. Ernest Mallet, Treasurer of the Committee and Regent of the Bank of France, the Honrble John Ridgely Carter, Secretary of the Committee, the Minister of Works, and others.

The Gardienne presented the Commandant to the President, to Madame Poincaré, and to the Ambassador. With great simplicity and charm, the blind officer expressed, on behalf of the men of the Lighthouse, their appreciation of the coming of the distinguished Franco-American representatives. The President, obviously touched by the words and bearing of the hero, replied sympathetically. Then he met the other blind officers, he and Madame Poincaré graciously saying something to each.

The procession then formed. The President of the Republic and the Présidente of the Comité Franco-Américain pour les Aveugles de la Guerre, the American Ambassador, and Madame Poincaré, the Military Attaché of the President, the

Protocol, the Minister of Works, Mrs. Bliss on the arm of the Commandant, and other distinguished persons.

First the representatives of the two great Republics signed their name in the Lighthouse Log, and then made the tour of the Lighthouse in the following order:—Typewriting-room, Braille Library and Reading and Writing-room. The procession paused while the work which the pupils were doing was watched with great interest, and the beautiful room which has been turned into a Museum for the Blind was inspected. At one table a blind schoolmaster was in charge. In the centre stood a clay Lighthouse, made by a blind modelling pupil of the Lighthouse. The guests were much pleased with the three coloured lights which shone from the lamp of this miniature Phare. The blind schoolmaster explained the various writing appliances. The statues, and the idea that the Blind could learn in the Museum to see by substituting their fingers for their eyes, appealed to the President and the Ambassador. Madame Poincaré was particularly interested in the beautiful examples of weaving in gold and colours, produced by the pupils of the New York Lighthouse. During this inspection the song of a blind man floated through the lofty doors of the Music-room. The singer had been found by the rays of the Lighthouse, suffering and disconsolate in the hospital. Four months ago he entered the Phare and began to study music. Last week at the Conservatoire he carried off the first prize for song.

As the guests reached the Conservatory (used also as a classroom) the song ceased and the blind singer appeared, to receive the congratulations of the assembly.

The procession then descended to the gardens and inspected the sports garden. There the trees are bound high with straw to prevent too sudden bumpings. In the midst stood the huge push-ball, of such interest to the players.

As the President turned from his amused inspection of the huge ball, he saw a pathetic group. A lady leading a Lighthouse pupil, blind and without arms. The President paused, the Gardienne presented the hero to him, and lifted his curious false arm so that it touched Monsieur Poincaré; the sleeve of

the other arm hung empty. The President's hand grasped the mechanical hand of the blind man. His brain received the message that he was shaking hands with the chief representative of France, of La Patrie, for whom he had suffered so much.

"My friend, have you been otherwise wounded?" asked the President.

"Yes, all over, Monsieur le Président," was the simple reply.

For a moment Monsieur Poincaré spoke to him with emotion. The Lighthouse keeper then explained what this soldier had already accomplished, despite his grievous handicap, and how he would still find the light. Realising the truth of what he heard, and receiving the congratulations of the President of the Republic for his bravery, the blind man smiled. That smile was the most heart-rending thing about that hero. Soon he was left alone with his guide.

In the main garden the fountain played. At four tables sat groups of blind soldiers with their teachers. The teachers wore the pretty little blue Lighthouse apron, with the Red Cross surmounted by the "Phare." There are silver buttons with anchors to complete the smartness of this marine uniform, suitable for the Lighthouse.

The guests were interested in a Letter-game, ingeniously arranged in ink print and Braille, the checker-boards, dominos, cards, etc.

They again entered the house, passing through the big dining-room. There they paused to examine the table, on which is a raised wooden plan of the Phare. Little round brass tacks give in Braille the name of each room, the stairs, the doors, even the fountains and the trees in the gardens are clearly shown. This is the invention and the work of the Econome of the Phare. It is of invaluable assistance to familiarise the men with their surroundings, to do away with confusion, and to give them their bearings for the Lighthouse.

Then quickly the procession wound through the pantry, until it paused in front of the tiled kitchen stove. There the Chef, crowned with a beautiful new stiff cap, did the honours,

lifting the covers from the dinner in preparation. The President was told that the Chef was also a philanthropist, and that without ulterior motives he cooked for France and in honour of the men who had given their eyes for the cause of civilisation.

"Really he reminds me of the "Jongleur de Notre Dame," said the Gardienne. "He cooks for the Glory of God."

A dainty dessert was waiting on a side table. Taking a spoon, the President of the Republic tasted Lighthouse fare and approved it.

The next stop was made in the Director's room. A letter was dictated to a blind stenographer. He took it quickly on a little American shorthand machine, and later transcribed it without error on the typewriter for the President. Next a pupil explained the use of the Dictaphone. Then dormitories, bathrooms, the Clinic, and the bureau were seen.

The President paused in the bureau to receive the first copy of "La Carrière d'un Aveugle," in ink print, the translation of the Gardienne's English book, "A Beacon for the Blind," which is also sent out in French Braille from the Lighthouse, with a preface by the Marquis de Vogué. The President kindly wrote his name at the base of his photograph, and Madame Poincaré, who is fond of English, was given a copy of "The Lady of the Lighthouse," written by Mrs. Woodruff, as a souvenir.

More machines and pottery were admired, also statues by a blind sculptor. The President then led the way to the Modelling-room. Mr. and Miss Cauldwell, the first artists to develop modelling decorated with colours for the Blind, explained the work of their pupils. Each blind artisan received commendation for his remarkable product.

The company next invaded the old stable, now turned into the Handicrafts shop. There material made by a blind man was viewed with much favour. The Comtesse de la Redorte, responsible for the progress of the weaving, was presented to the guests.

The simple device of a blind man who had lost his right arm was studied. He arranged a string so that his foot could

hold it, this does the necessary work which his right arm cannot accomplish, and keeps in place part of the weaving appliance, leaving him his one good arm to do the rest of the work. This device has enabled him to become an expert weaver.

A blind soldier explained his practical fillet work. The next craft to interest the company was the knitting machines. Here a one-armed man, unable to wear an articulated apparatus, knitted faultlessly part of a sweater, explained in detail his work and presented Madame Poincaré with a miniature sweater for a bazaar and a large sweater, which, as he touchingly said, is for a brave soldier who somewhere is doing the work which he can no longer do.

The Massage-room was then visited, and a blind man explained the skeleton which he studied. The douches were admired.

Then the details of the first Gymnasium for the Blind in France were carefully studied. The little flat wooden strip on the floor, a foot and a-half in advance of the wall, the slope towards the wall to prevent accidents, were carefully observed. The ladders for Swedish exercises and horizontal bars also called forth appreciative comment.

Then a fencing bout took place in the Gymnasium. The combatants were the "Maître d'Armes" Burgess, well-known to the President, and Adjutant Lagarde. This blind tall Meridional is still officially dead. His little wife wore mourning for him for three months. He was prisoner for eleven months with the Germans in Belgium. During that time he says he is grateful that the Americans spared him the humiliation of eating German bread. Before he gave his eyes for civilisation, he must have been a dangerous foilsman. As it is he is quick and extraordinarily graceful at "fleuret." He had pressed the little fencing master and created great enthusiasm amidst the on-lookers.

After his remarkable performance he removed his gloves and mask and took a woven bag from the hand of a near standing Lighthouse worker. The man of war turned suddenly into a peaceful citizen, and with a low bow presented the handi-

work of his loom—a useful, what our grandmothers called “*réticule*”—to the wife of the President.

The guests were then told the uses of the Braille electric printing press, the first of the kind in France.

Every blind man was made happy by the warm handshakes and kind greetings of the representatives of France and America, and the work having been all inspected with unusually quick and sympathetic understanding, the President and Madame Poincaré warmly thanked the Gardienne for what the Comité Franco-Américain pour les Aveugles de la Guerre had done for France. The Commandant, followed by the other officers, descended the steps to the court. Having executed their difficult task with consummate kindness and grace, the President and his wife—perfect representatives of their land of perfect urbanity and perfect heroism—amidst the cheers of the waiting crowd, left the Phare de France. . . .

Then the Ambassador and his daughter, both of whom are much beloved, after warm felicitations for the Committee and its achievement also left.

The other distinguished guests followed. The official part of the opening of the French Lighthouse was over.

THE WEST OF ENGLAND INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, EXETER.

By Mr. W. Cutcliffe Knill, Secretary, and Mr. J. A. Pinn,
Superintendent.

The first record of proceedings in connection with what is known as “The West of England Institution for the Instruction and Employment of the Blind” is dated 28th April, 1838, and states that “A meeting was called by Mr. Bacon for the purpose of endeavouring to establish a School for teaching the Indigent Blind in this City to read.” It was further stated that a benevolent lady named Mrs. Friend had been giving gratuitous instruction to a class of five or six persons in a system of teaching invented by Mr. Lucas of Bristol, and that Mrs. Friend’s

success had been so great as to give encouragement to establish a School on a more extended scale.

A pupil of Mrs. Friend's, after six weeks' instruction, had read a portion of the Gospel of St. John at a large meeting in Exeter, to the admiration and astonishment of the meeting.

Dr. McGowan stated that he had procured the attendance of a youth who had been a pupil of Mr. Lucas, and who was returning to Bristol from Plymouth, where he had been giving instruction to the Blind in learning to read.

Joseph Stocke, aged 12, was introduced to the meeting, and requested to read a portion of the 14th Chapter of St. John's Gospel. He opened the book, found the Chapter himself, and read it as correctly and fluently as could have been done by any person having the blessing of sight. He also read a part of the 17th Chapter of the same Gospel, and showed a list of the pupils to whom he had been giving instruction at Plymouth, whose ages ranged from 9 to 50 years. Some of these are stated to have learnt to read, on Mr. Lucas' plan, in periods ranging from 4 days to 6 weeks.

The foundation of the Institution was largely owing to the enormous pains taken in the matter by Mrs. Friend, and the Minutes of this first meeting record that "Mrs. Friend attended the meeting and said she had examined Joseph Stocke as to his mode of teaching, and thought it preferable to her own, as she was self-taught." She expressed her readiness to undertake the superintendence of any School that might be formed.

A Resolution was proposed by Mr. John Bacon, seconded by Captain Trevillian, "That a Society be formed to be called 'The Exeter Indigent Blind School Society,' for the purpose of giving instruction to such Blind persons as may be found in the City and its vicinity, and that the gentlemen present do form themselves into a Committee for the purpose of organising the Society, with power to add to their number." It was further resolved, "That a School be established in Exeter, the *primary* object of which shall be to teach the Indigent Blind to read, on the plan of Mr. Lucas—that a room be hired in the first instance, or procured for a school-room—that Mrs. Friend, who has so

kindly devoted her time since February last, to the gratuitous teaching of five or six blind persons, be employed for one year at the salary of £20—to superintend the school and give instruction—that “should it appear desirable, the services of Joseph Stocke be obtained from Bristol for such time as the Committee may see requisite for the purpose of teaching—that basket-making, plaiting of straw, and such other occupations as may enable blind persons to procure a subsistence, be taught in the School, and that a person be sought for, who will engage to give instruction in these occupations—that the Parochial Clergy, Dissenting Ministers, Physicians, and other Medical gentlemen of the City, be asked to interest themselves in the objects of the Society, and be particularly urged to ascertain whether there are any blind persons in the parts of the City under their Pastoral or Medical care, and to press upon them the advantages they will derive from seeking instruction from such an Institution.” It was decided to hold a meeting on Saturday, the 12th May, at the Athenæum, and that the Secretary be requested to invite the attendance of the Clergy, Physicians, etc., to co-operate in carrying into effect this plan.

At this meeting it was resolved that the Committee be instructed to engage a room in the Athenæum, and on the 11th June in that year they hired the lower room for a sum of 20 guineas per annum. The meeting further resolved that the Secretary be directed to write to the Governors of the Corporation of the Poor of Exeter to invite the attendance for instruction of such blind persons as may be receiving allowance from the Corporation. A communication was read from Mrs. Friend, the Superintendent of Instruction, detailing her proceedings since February last at the room in South Street, showing that seven individuals had been under occasional instruction, but that two only had been regular in their attendance, and whose progress had been satisfactory, Susan Hearne being able readily to read the Gospel of St. John.

In July, 1838, handbills were printed and exhibited throughout the City, announcing the intended opening of the School.

On the 8th August, 1838, the British and Foreign Bible

Society was requested to forward 24 copies of each portion of the Scriptures that they may have in Mr. Lucas' embossed characters, to remain in the school-room for sale, on account of this Bible Society. It was further decided "that such scholars as shall have passed through the school, and whose conduct shall have given satisfaction to the Committee, be presented in the name of the Society with a copy of one portion of the Scriptures, on condition that the individual do appear before the Committee with the book on the second Wednesday of each month to give proof that he continue his reading."

At a meeting held the 9th January, 1839, it was resolved that "the system of teaching to read by the stenographic characters of the late Mr. Lucas, of Bristol, be confined to the old pupils, and that all new scholars be taught in the Roman characters as made by Mr. Alston, of Glasgow." Later in the year Mr. Alston came to Exeter and addressed a Public Meeting. At a later meeting the following resolutions were adopted:—

1. "This meeting acknowledges with gratitude and thankfulness the Blessing of Divine Providence which has enabled the Committee to present so favourable a Report, that it is expedient to adopt a proposal made in the Report for extending the operations of the Society by hiring a house for the reception of Blind Inmates from this and other Counties if sufficient support shall be obtained."

2. "That the designation of the Society be changed to that of 'West of England Society for the Instruction and Employment of the Blind.'"

On the 9th October, 1839, the first meeting of the Committee was held at the Institution, which had removed to Paul Street.

In November of this year, Mr. Frere attended a Committee meeting and gave an explanation of the system invented by him for teaching blind persons to read, which explanation concluded by his asking permission to teach one or more of the pupils of this Institution according to his method. This offer the Committee did not, under existing circumstances, think them-

selves justified in accepting, but they conveyed their best thanks to Mr. Frere for his obliging and interesting communication.

It was resolved that in order to carry out the first object of the Institution, that of teaching the Blind to read the Holy Scriptures, instruction shall be given in the Old and New Testaments, and the Prayers to be used in the School morning and evening shall be taken from the Liturgy according to the use of the Church of England, and that certain books in embossed Roman capital characters published for the use of blind persons be placed on the West of England Society's permanent catalogue.

In 1840 it was decided to purchase a Spinning Wheel for use at the Institution, and that "Daniel Elston be engaged by the week to instruct the pupils in coarse basket-making, at the rate of 12s. per week. It was understood that he is to be employed in teaching and also in working for the benefit of the Institution."

In December of this year additional accommodation was rented in Paul Street at the rate of 12 guineas per annum.

In March, 1841, it was resolved that for the future every child must appear at the Institution to be examined by one or more of the Medical Officers previously to admission.

On the 9th of June in this year, at a Special Meeting held to consider the relative advantages of the stenographic and alphabetic systems to teach the Blind to read, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—"The system of instruction by the Roman characters, having been tried in this Institution for upwards of two years, the observations of the Superintendent and the examinations of the children and adults in the two systems of the Roman and stenographic characters having convinced the Committee of the superiority of the latter, it was unanimously resolved that the stenographic system be resumed."

On the 28th July, 1841, application was made to the Committee for one of the teachers of the London Society to be permitted to stay for a few days at the Institution, in order to

learn the method of fine basket-making adopted here, which permission was granted.

At the Annual Meeting a newspaper report of the proceedings states, among other interesting facts, that 15 pupils, accompanied by their excellent and indefatigable Instructress, Mrs. Friend, occupied the Orchestra, and that at the bottom of the room were displayed for inspection or purchase a variety of works most ingeniously and neatly executed by the pupils.

In 1842 the Institution had outgrown its accommodation, and in October of that year a Public Meeting was held, and an appeal issued for the purpose of erecting an appropriate building. The appeal was headed by a gift of £500 from the President, Mr. John Bowden Cresswell, and the Committee was authorised to adopt measures for acquiring new premises as soon as the amounts of funds received from liberality should justify their proceeding. This appeal so soon bore fruit that a few days after Mrs. Wilkinson made an offer of some property on St. David's Hill, which was valued at £2,150, for £1,400, and that offer having been considered the Committee resolved that as the house and grounds were in all respects adapted to the purposes and adequate to the necessities of the Institution, it was, therefore, desirable that the benevolent offer of Mrs. Wilkinson be thankfully acknowledged and recommended for the adoption of a Special Committee. This meeting unanimously accepted Mrs. Wilkinson's offer.

Unfortunately, the Record Books of the Institution from 1843 to 1848 are missing.

In 1848, and for many years after, half yearly examinations of the pupils were held by the Committee, and a book for each pupil was kept recording progress in reading, basket-work, mat-making, and music.

In this year Mr. R. W. Wyllie was appointed Musical Instructor at the salary of £10 per annum. He introduced a plan of Musical Notation invented by himself, using Lucas's characters. In 1850 he showed the Committee some Chants and Psalms which had been printed in embossed characters under his direction, and stated that the pupils learnt with great ease

by this system of Musical Notation. The Committee greatly approved the skill and assiduity exhibited by Mr. Wyllie, and resolved that at the next meeting of the Committee the subject should be specially considered, with a view of purchasing a press should it be thought desirable, and a printing press was subsequently purchased for 8 guineas.

On Wednesday, April 3rd, the first monthly Musical Rehearsal was given by the pupils. These Concerts—later they were held weekly—continued up to about 10 years ago, and were among the prominent musical fixtures of the City.

In July, 1850, the Superintendent reported that Miss Heberden had presented a piano to the Institution, and it was resolved that a letter of thanks be addressed to her for the same. In this year Mrs. Wilkinson, from whom the Committee had purchased the house and grounds at a reduced price, died, leaving the Institution a legacy of £300.

In 1851 Lady Thornborough, of Bishops-Teignton, by her will, bequeathed to the Institution the sum of £2,000, and Mrs. Mary Halford £1,000.

During the next year the accommodation of the Institution was increased at a cost of £370 10s. od.

In 1853 Robert Hawkins was admitted an indoor pupil. This boy subsequently became a journeyman, and served the Institution during a period of 61 years—he having but recently died.

A system of accumulating for the pupils a percentage of their earnings was now begun, the idea being that this accumulation should continue until they left the Institution, when the money should be used for their benefit, provided the Committee should consider them entitled by their conduct to such consideration.

In 1854 Music Rehearsals were held on every Wednesday afternoon, instead of once a month.

In 1855 an inscription was placed on the new wing of the Institution—"Founded 1839, Enlarged 1855." The accommodation at this time was for 20 males, and the Committee decided

that it was not desirable for pupils to begin mat-making before they were 15, and basket-making before they were 14.

On the 5th August, 1857, Mr. William Sanders was appointed foreman teacher of basket-work, which post he still retains, and during this year willow sheds were erected at a cost of £350.

In 1859, at a Special Meeting of the Governors, it was decided to purchase nine cottages and a yard, to be conveyed to four Trustees of the real property of the Institution, and further that the thanks of the Committee be given to the London Committee for the Blind for the kind aid rendered to Mr. Trythall in obtaining a knowledge of brush-making at their Institution.

Additional work-rooms, sick-rooms, etc., were erected at a cost of £750, and in the following year additional domestic and private offices were provided at a cost of £200.

In 1862 a garden and field at the back of the Institution, containing nearly two acres, were purchased for £600.

In 1863 a house and garden and a sum of £300 were given to the Institution as compensation for the damage already done, and any future damage that might arise from the action of the South Western Railway through boring a tunnel near the Institution.

A public meeting was held at Taunton in 1864, at which "about 200 of the most respectable inhabitants attended." A deputation attended from this Institution and advocated the cause and interest of the Blind. Some of the pupils also attended and entertained the meeting with musical performances, which gave general satisfaction. Meetings were also held at other important places in the West in order to bring the work and advantages of the Institution before the public.

In 1866 it was resolved that a special fund be opened for purchasing a new organ, and that the proceeds of Musical Rehearsals and Concerts be appropriated to that object.

About this time concerts were held in connection with the proposed organ fund at Torquay, Tiverton, and Exmouth, and in 1867 a new organ was erected with 510 pipes.

In 1869 an enlargement of the kitchen and workshops was carried out at a cost of £425.

A willow ground in the Bonhay, Exeter, was purchased for the sum of £110 in 1875.

The Institution now sustained a very serious loss by the death of Mrs. Friend, who had been the leading spirit and presiding genius of the Institution since its inception. The Minute Book records the resolution of the Committee in the following terms:—"That this Committee with deep regret records the death of Mrs. Friend, the valued Superintendent of this Institution. Ever since the commencement of this most valuable Institution in 1838, Mrs. Friend had discharged with Christian fidelity the responsible duties devolving upon her—indeed it may be said that the Institution owed its origin and subsequent prosperity to her. Her interest in it never flagged, and her sound judgment, firm decision, and loving sympathy secured for the inmates the comforts of home, and for herself the respect and esteem of all who knew her."

On the 26th February, 1879, the Minutes show that an extract of the will of the late Mr. Henry Gardner was read, who had bequeathed the sum of £300,000 to the Blind. It was resolved that the Secretary write to the President, Sir John Kennaway, and ask him to favour the Committee by suggesting the best mode of making application for a grant in aid of this Institution.

In 1880 Dr. Armitage visited the Institution, and the following suggestions were made by him to the Committee with regard to the admission of junior pupils:—

(1) That no pupil under the age of 13 or 14 should be put to handicraft work, but that the whole of their time and energy should be given to an educational course, with drill and athletic exercises so far as may come within the scope and power of blind children.

(2) That such pupils should be engaged in school instruction, with playground exercises and drill for not less than 7 hours daily. This would necessitate the engagement of a trained female teacher for her whole time.

(3) The Normal College should supply such a teacher, and if necessary, give some pecuniary aid if this Institution could provide board and lodgings.

In 1881 Mr. Thomas Maitland Snow was appointed the Hon. Treasurer, which office that gentleman held until his death in 1889, when he was succeeded by Mr. Sebastian C. Snow, who still holds the office, he also having held the office of President for two consecutive years.

The teaching of Braille appears to have been considered first in October, 1886, when it was resolved that with the view to a consideration of the Braille system of instruction and other educational questions, a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider these matters. It is recorded that in 1888 two monitors read very satisfactorily in this system.

In 1887 the Committee resolved to train some of the pupils in the art of pianoforte tuning, and the services of a teacher from the Royal Normal College were secured, and it was intimated that the Committee would be very grateful to any charitable person who would give them an old piano.

The question of the establishment of a Home Teaching Society for the Blind in this City was first discussed in 1891, but no appreciable progress in the matter was made until 1903, when such a Society was formed, and still continues.

It was in this year that Miss Fanny C. Karslake, a lady who for a great number of years had supported the Institution in various ways, and to whom the Institution owes a big debt of gratitude, suggested the erection of a gymnasium, which suggestion was carried out on the grounds of the Institution.

The passing of the 1893 Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, received the earnest consideration of the Committee, who decided to come in under that scheme, after the President and other gentlemen of the Institution had attended a Conference which was held at Birmingham relative thereto. At this time there were 33 pupils in the Institution, of whom only a portion were of school age, and what had hitherto been the Concert Room was reconstructed for the purpose of being used as a school-room to accommodate 20 boys and 20 girls.

The first Report received from H.M. Inspector of Schools contained the following:—"The Committee have been liberal in their expenditure, and have carried out fully all the suggestions made when the School was first certified. The children are very well treated and well taught. The Institution well deserves the support of the four Western Counties for which it was designed."

In 1896 the girls' dormitory was extended at a cost of £250, and in 1897 a new organ was erected towards which the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind contributed a grant of £75.

Mr. John Dawson, of Northbrook Park, Exeter, in 1904 gave a handsome donation of £3,000 towards the funds of the Institution for general purposes.

From this time onwards until the present, the renewed activities of the Committee, and the prominence given to Institutions for the Blind generally, in consequence of the Elementary Education Act, appears to have called the attention of the general public to our requirements, and legacies have continued to flow in year after year, enabling the Committee not only to expend money in various directions such as the increased number of pupils demanded, but also to invest a goodly portion of the money so received, the income of which has allowed the Institution to maintain a higher standard in every respect than was hitherto possible.

In 1907 new workshops were erected at a cost of £1,550 and an inscription thereon states, "That this workshop was built, and the Institution improved through the munificent gifts of £1,350 from Mrs. Maria Nosworthy, of Newlands, Dawlish, widow of William Nosworthy, M.A., Clerk in Holy Orders, and also of £200 from the Committee of Gardners' Trust for the Blind."

One result of these handsome gifts was that the pupils over 16 years of age were entirely separated from those under that age, both at work and in their dormitories, and the Education Department thereupon certified the school for 45 pupils.

In 1909, owing to the steady increase in the number of pupils of school age, it became necessary to erect a building in the grounds of the Institution for the sole purposes of elementary instruction. This was done at the cost of £1,200, and the old school-room was converted into a girls' dormitory. The Institution was further extended by an additional story on the boys' side, thus increasing the sleeping accommodation.

Here in 1911 was held the third Triennial International Conference on the Blind.

In 1913 still further school accommodation became necessary, and provision was made in the enlargement scheme for the addition of two class-rooms, thereby raising the number of school places from 45 to 75. All the class-rooms lead to a verandah, which is used for open air teaching, and steps lead therefrom to a large playing field.

At the same time the internal domestic arrangements were improved—kitchen and bath-rooms being brought right up to date at a total expenditure of £3,000.

The new workshops already referred to give accommodation for 30 journeymen and journeywomen, and include, in addition to the usual rooms for various trade purposes, rooms for the purpose of pianoforte tuning.

At present there are 82 pupils resident in the Institution, of whom 70 are of school age and 12 are technical pupils.

The curriculum is framed with the object of giving instruction as near as possible to that received by scholars in the sighted primary schools, and includes all the ordinary school subjects. Special instruction is given in music, pianoforte tuning, wood-work, typewriting, machine knitting, basket-work, mat-making, chair-caning, and boot repairing.

The roll of Presidents is an interesting one, and the Institution has been nobly served in this respect. The present President, who holds office for the second time is the Right Hon. Sir Ernest Satow, G.C.M.G., and the Vice-President is Mr. R. H. Ward, who for many years has been the Chairman of the Finance Committee. Other members of the present Committee, who have also served the Institution in the office of President, are Colonel Cardew, Mr. W. B. Heberden, C.B., Mr. Sebastian C. Snow, and Mr. W. P. Studholme.



THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE GENERAL
WELFARE OF THE BLIND, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON, W

The Blind.

VOL. IV.

No. 77.

JANUARY 20TH, 1917.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. It is with very much regret that we have to announce the death of Miss Walker, Headmistress of the School for the Blind at Glasgow, on October 22nd, after a long and painful illness of eight months duration. The Blind have never had, and will never have, a more faithful friend. In season and out of season she laboured for their welfare for twenty-five years, never sparing herself even when suffering a perfect martyrdom of bodily pain. A touching memorial notice of Miss Walker has been issued by the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, from which we extract the following:—

"Entering on her duties at the Blind Asylum in May, 1891, Miss Walker, when she was taken ill, had almost completed twenty-five years of loyal service in the interest of the Blind. So closely did she identify herself with the world of the Blind, that even on holiday she never failed to get in touch with any blind people in her neighbourhood, and she embraced every opportunity of seeing the methods of other Institutions.

Her relations with her pupils were fine in the extreme. Quick was the youngest to recognize that behind the teacher was the truehearted friend, anxious that they should excel in scholarship, but doubly anxious that they should become

worthy men and women, one who would rejoice in their well-being and well-doing. Her justice and firmness, tempered with mercy, won their respect, and the kind heart, which breaks down all barriers, established a freemasonry more easily felt than described. Little Jamie Thompson, parentless, homeless, and needing to be loved, was whirled home with her for a delightful holiday on her first vacation.

To her staff and fellow officials she brought the same characteristics which made her so conspicuous a success as a teacher. The alert ear, the ready smile, the apt experienced advice, the "heart at leisure from itself," for all things personal or scholastic, were there always, and few were slow to take advantage of them.

But her activities were not narrowed to the Blind Asylum. From all parts of the country came visitors and letters seeking advice on the many matters of interest to the Blind, and in spite of indifferent health and much suffering, she ungrudgingly placed her spare time at their disposal."

2. It is with sincere sorrow that we have to record the death of Mr. Godfrey D. Gardner, F.R.C.O., Professor of Music at the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind. He joined his Majesty's forces shortly after the outbreak of the War, and received a commission in the 9th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment. Mr. Gardner served in France for over a year, taking part in much hard fighting on the Somme and elsewhere, but on September the 13th, he was killed in action while leading a gallant assault on the trenches of the enemy. The conspicuous ability of Mr. Gardner in his profession, and his enthusiasm in the work of the School, added to his kindly disposition and personal charm, won for him the affection and respect of the Council, the Staff, and the pupils. The Council feel that the Society has suffered a very real loss; his place will not easily be filled.

3. A monument of Scotch granite has been erected by Lady Campbell in the United States of America, in the old

home of her late husband, Sir Francis Campbell. On the monument after his name are inscribed the words "His life-work was for those who like himself were bereft of sight, and he left an example of noble courage and untiring zeal that will ever be an inspiration to the Blind."

4. Mr. Leonard Marsh, A.R.C.O., a Gardner Scholar at the Royal Normal College for the Blind at Norwood, passed in October last his first examination for the Mus. Bac. at Durham University.

Miss Florence Houchin and Miss Bella Modiano, both Gardner Scholars at the College, left at Christmas. The former gained the Teacher's Diploma of the Licentiatehip of the Royal Academy of Music in pianoforte playing, and the latter gained the Advanced Grade of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music in singing. Two Gardner Scholars at the College have also passed the Advanced Grade, and four the Intermediate Grade of the Associated Board in pianoforte playing, and two the Intermedial Grade in singing.

5. The Rev. R. C. Swayne, late of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, and Keble College, Oxford, has been appointed Vicar of Thornton-Steward, Yorkshire.

6. Every Wednesday at 3.30 p.m., Mr. H. C. Warrilow, F.R.C.O., Director of Music at the National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, W., gives recitals on the organ. Mr. Warrilow is doing good service in helping blind musicians and pianoforte tuners to obtain suitable and remunerative posts.

7. Mr. T. G. Osborn, F.R.C.O., has been appointed Organist temporarily at St. Mary Magdalen, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, during the absence of the regular Organist at the Front.

8. A new chapel erected at St. Dunstan's Hostel for blinded sailors and soldiers was dedicated on December 14th by the Bishop of London. The Hon. Chaplain is the Rev. E. N. Sharpe, Rector of Holy Trinity, St. Marylebone.

9. A generous offer has been made by the Trustees of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust to the Council of the Royal Normal College for the Blind. The offer, which has been accepted, is a grant of £12,500, provided that a sum of £25,000 is raised from other sources before December 31st, 1918, in order that the College may be permanently endowed. A sum of £5,000 is immediately required to meet the balance due on the new pianoforte tuning building and a banker's loan, and on that account the Trustees have most considerately offered to pay £5,000 as soon as a like sum is raised from other sources. This offer is to hold good until February 28th next.

Since writing the above paragraph, we are much pleased to hear that the condition, under which the immediate payment of £5,000 was promised, has been fulfilled owing to the generosity of the President of the College, Lord Howard de Walden, who has given £2,000, and the National Institute for the Blind, which has given £5,000 to the funds of the College. In forwarding a cheque for the £5,000, Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., wrote: "During the last three years the National Institute for the Blind has been so fortunate as to enlist public sympathy and help to a gratifying extent, and we feel that the money entrusted to us by the public should, so far as possible, be expended in helping forward any object of general benefit to the Blind community. We are very conscious of the extremely valuable work which the Royal Normal College has accomplished in the past, and are glad of the opportunity of enabling it to increase its sphere of usefulness."

10. With this number we begin the twentieth year of the issue of *The Blind*. In October next, therefore, will be given, as usual, an index of the contents in the numbers during the five preceding years, which will complete vol. iv.

In our next number the special article will be the history of the Sheffield Institution and School for the Blind, by Mr. Samuel Maddocks, Superintendent and Secretary.

11. One of the chief events of the past year in the world of the Blind is the attainment of a National Free Library of embossed literature and music.

For years past the Committee of the National Library for the Blind (18, Tufton Street, Westminster, London), have been working towards this ideal, but they felt that, until they could combine the privilege of free reading with an adequate provision of books, the moment for the final step had not come.

This fine Library of over 27,000 volumes of literature and 5,000 volumes of music has now been declared free of all charge, save that of carriage, to every blind reader in the United Kingdom.

This development has been made possible partly by the generous help of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust in providing fine and ample premises for the work (though this grant has not increased the income of the Library) and partly by the greater interest taken by the general public.

It is hoped that Institutions and Societies for the Blind as well as Public Libraries will continue to co-operate with and support financially the National Library, as without such help from all parts of the country it will be impossible to maintain the Library at its present high level of efficiency.

Readers wishing to join the Library should apply to the Secretary for a form of application.

12. About one hundred blind readers were entertained on December 19th at the National Library for the Blind at an excellent concert to inaugurate the use of the new Reading and Lecture rooms.

Mrs. Danckwerts, Lady Nicholson, and Mrs. Garry Simpson provided light refreshments which were much appreciated, while Madame de Nevosky and Miss Bessie Mark

organized the concert, which was most successful and much delighted the audience.

The announcement that the Library would henceforth be free to all was received with applause.

13. The sixth book of Eusebius in Braille has been added to the Public Library at Oxford.

14. On Saturday, November 18th, the re-opening of the organ in the Great Hall of the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, London, N.W., took place, and with regret we had to decline the kind invitation from the Council of the School to be present. There was an excellent recital on the organ by Mr. H. W. Richards, Mus. Doc., F.R.C.O., assisted by two old pupils of the School, viz., Mr. A. Hayhow, A.R.C.O., Organist at Holy Trinity Church, Brondesbury, and Mr. F. Howlett, A.R.C.O., Organist at St. Peter's Church, Kensal Rise. The organ has been rebuilt upon the lines of the standard organ of the Royal College of Organists, and will, therefore, be of very great advantage to pupils being trained as Organists. It was installed just fifty years ago, and is now in every way a modern instrument as regards action and mechanical arrangements.

15. A meeting of the Fellows of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, on Saturday, December 9th, when there were present Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. G. M. Campbell, W. H. Illingworth, H. W. P. Pine, Henry Stainsby, and Henry J. Wilson.

A meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the same place on the same day, when there were present Miss Garaway, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. G. M. Campbell, W. H. Illingworth, T. H. Martin, A. P. Pearson, H. W. P. Pine, J. M. Ritchie, Henry Stainsby, W. H. Thurman, and Henry J. Wilson in the Chair. Mr. A.

J. Story wrote tendering his resignation as a member of the Committee, which was accepted with great regret. Owing to travelling difficulties it was thought that it may be necessary to change the place of examination, which had been fixed for Bristol. Several other important matters were considered.

16. The annual meeting of the Union of Unions for the Blind was held at the offices of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, on the 13th of October.

There were present from the Northern Union, Miss Bellhouse, Mr. Booth, and Mr. Priestley; from the Metropolitan Union, Mrs. Goodhart, Miss Beatrice Taylor, Miss D. Jones, Mr. Guy Campbell, and Mr. H. J. Wilson; from the Midland Union Miss Merivale, Mr. Burrows, Mr. Pine, and Mr. Thurman; from the North-West Union, Miss M. Comber, and Miss Rayner; from the Western Union, Miss Beavan, Miss King, the Rev. S. F. Harris, and Mr. Gilbert; from the Eastern Union, Miss Cunningham, and the Rev. C. E. Bolam; co-opted members, Miss H. Jocelyn Ffoulkes, Mr. W. H. Dixon, and Mr. A. Siddall, and Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Stuart Johnson.

Mr. H. J. Wilson presided at the meeting, and after the minutes of the last meeting had been read warmly welcomed the three co-opted members. Miss Emery and Mr. J. Hall wrote regretting their inability to be present.

On the motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Pine, Mr. H. J. Wilson was unanimously re-elected Chairman. In thanking the members for his re-election, the Chairman referred to various events that had happened since the last meeting.

On the motion of the Rev. S. F. Harris, seconded by Mr. Thurman, Miss Beatrice Taylor and Mr. Guy Campbell were re-elected joint Hon. Secretaries.

On the motion of Mr. Pine, seconded by Mr. Priestley, Mr. Stuart Johnson was re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

Several important subjects were discussed, and the Organizing Secretaries of the respective Unions gave interesting reports on the work in their districts.

The next examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind will be held on May 22nd and 23rd. The place of examination had been fixed at the Royal School for the Blind, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, a kind invitation having been received from the Committee of the School, but owing to travelling difficulties the place of examination may have to be changed. Candidates must send in their applications to the Hon. Registrar of the College, c/o the National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, London, so as to reach him on or before March 25th. A copy of the regulations and syllabus for 1917 and full particulars as to the examination can be obtained from the Hon. Registrar.

17. We fear that owing to the war and to the new railway arrangements by which the fares are increased 50 per cent., and the trains are fewer and slower, we cannot expect many of our friends from the country to attend the usual annual meetings, two of which will be held in March, viz., that of the College of Teachers of the Blind on the 10th, and that of the Metropolitan Union of Societies for the Blind on the 17th. We presume, therefore, that as the meetings will probably be sparsely attended, little more than ordinary routine business will be transacted in these difficult and strenuous days.

18. According to a recent return of the grants which have been made from the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund, a sum of £35,000 has been granted to St. Dunstan's Hostel for blinded sailors and soldiers, and £250 to the National Library for the Blind (sailors and soldiers).

19. On the 1st of January, No. 1 of "The Beacon" was issued by the National Institute for the Blind. The "Braille Review" now ceases to exist, as a separate publication, being incorporated in the new monthly magazine, which will consist of sixteen pages, and be issued on the 1st of each month. The annual subscription is 2s.

20. On October 25th the Lord Mayor of Bradford opened the extension of the Women's Home for the Blind in connection with the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind. The Home was opened at 10, Spring Bank, by Mrs. Priestman in July, 1908, the premises being acquired for £650, and the adjacent house, No. 12, coming into the market it was bought for £750, making a total for the purchase of the establishment £1,400. This Home, and that at Frizinghall, enable the Committee to provide for the indigent blind of both sexes who are too old to work and would otherwise be in the Workhouse.

Mr. Frederick Priestman, who presided, said these Homes were the first of their kind in the country, and the city's example had been followed in other towns. Sufficient money had been raised for the extension, and there was a balance in hand which would either be utilised for extra furnishing, or to form the nucleus of a fund for establishing works for the Blind at Frizinghall. Mr. Priestman added that the Guardians of the Poor paid for the maintenance of the Blind in the Homes. Founders' Day was celebrated on November 9th at the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind. It is an occasion when all who are interested in the valuable work being carried out there daily have the opportunity of meeting, talking over old times and enjoying a pleasant time together. The Lord Mayor is President of the Institution, and as he was elected this very day it was his first public appearance. It was a great disappointment that Mr. Frederick Priestman, who has been Chairman of the Institution for thirty-three years, was prevented by illness from attending. The Honorary Secretary presented the Lady Mayoress with a shawl on behalf of the residents of the Institution, together with an address stating that it had been made by one of them and was a facsimile of one presented to Queen Mary when, as Princess of Wales, she opened the Cartwright Hall in 1904.

An address was given by the Rev. Thomas Paxton, and there was an excellent entertainment.

21. The 72nd annual report of the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Nottingham, is a record of good work. There are 125 blind persons connected with the Institution, including 72 pupils in the Boarding Houses, and 47 workpeople and adult learners. Four girls have left, and of these one has been appointed teacher of hand-loom weaving at the Bristol Institution, and another typist and shorthand writer at a leading firm in Leicester. Twelve lads have left, three of whom are now journeymen at the Institution, one is a matmaker at the Bradford Institution, and another is a piano-forte tuner with a Sheffield firm. Agnes Lord, a pupil who had been assisting in the Girls' Workroom, has been appointed teacher at handloom weaving at the Liverpool Catholic Blind Asylum. The sale of manufactured goods amounted to £10,402 15s. 6d., and the sum paid to blind workpeople was £1,770 2s. 8d.

22. The 49th annual meeting of the Preston Industrial Institute and Homes for blind children was held at the Town Hall on December 20th, when the Mayor presided. Col. T. R. Jolly, who has the long record of forty-one years as Secretary, being appointed in September, 1875, read the annual report for the year ended the 30th of September last, in which it was stated that at the end of the year there were in the Institution 17 adults in the workshops, and 28 boys and 24 girls in the homes (six of the former being half-timers), the numbers a year ago being 30 boys and 15 girls, the half-timers being the same.

The Army Service Corps have again taken over the new boarding house for the temporary accommodation of Royal Field Artillery recruits.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that the trade department has had a fairly prosperous year, inasmuch as the receipts amounted to £778 as against £560 in the previous year.

The home visitation of the Outside Blind has been continued for the seventh year.

The adoption of the report was moved by the Mayor, who

warmly congratulated Col. Jolly on his long service in the good work, and was seconded by Mr. Booth, the Chairman of the Committee, who expressed an earnest hope that there may be peace in 1917, being the year of the jubilee of the Institution.

23. The annual report of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, for the year ended the 30th of September last is very well illustrated, and shows continuous progress in all departments. Altogether 370 blind persons are benefited, viz., 149 at Nicolson Street, 130 at West Craigmillar, and 91 outdoor pensioners. The total sale of goods amounted to £22,737, and £2,581 11s. were paid in wages to blind workers.

In the Music School twelve students are undergoing preparation as Church Organists, and are also being trained as Piano Tuners. Robert Williamson passed the Examination for the A.R.C.O. Diploma, as did also William Watson, a former pupil, now Organist at Cruden Bay. Three students have received Organist appointments, and three have obtained posts with music firms in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Two students have obtained lucrative appointments in Shanghai.

Under the heading Printing Department it is stated that "many people in Scotland are unaware that a large number of books used by the Blind in all parts of the world are printed at the Institution at West Craigmillar. The first books to be printed in raised type in the United Kingdom were produced by Mr. James Gall, founder of the School for the Blind in Edinburgh in 1834. The present Braille Printing Department was established in 1890, and since then large quantities of educational books, religious books, music and periodicals have been produced. There is scarcely a blind school in the United Kingdom which does not use the reading-books printed at West Craigmillar and scarcely a blind musician who is not indebted to this Institution for much of the music he uses. The following books have been printed to the order of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge: "How we got our Bible" (Paterson Smith) "How to use the Prayer-book" (Romanes),

“ Penny History of the Church of England ” (Jessop), “ Our Private Prayers ” (Bishop Wilkinson), “ The Earthly Life of Our Lord ” (Randolph), “ The Story of the Prayer-book ” (Moule) The Prayer-book Psalms have also been printed in daily portions, each portion appearing in booklet form.”

24. The Leeds United Institution for the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb attained its jubilee last year, but on account of the war there was no public celebration of the event. Reference was, however, made to it at the annual meeting held on October 25th, when the Lord Mayor presided.

The annual report, which was presented, stated that the turnover in the trading departments for the year ended June 30th last was £13,201, as against £12,335 in the previous year. The increase of £865 represented a record in the history of the Institution. The special war bonus to both blind and sighted workers had been continued, and the number of workers in the trading departments at the close of the year was 89. Following the example of other bodies, the Committee were taking steps to incorporate the Institution, the carrying out of which would be reported next year.

25. The annual meeting of the Bournemouth and District Blind Aid Society was held on December 5th, when the Rev. Canon Barnes Lawrence presided, and the fifth annual report was submitted in which it is stated that after deducting the names of those who have died or who have left the town, and all doubtful cases, the number on the books is 109, made up as follows : 6 of independent means, 20 self-supporting, 5 partially self-supporting, 70 dependent upon others, 8 children.

Mr. F. N. Story, a blind man whom we used to see at Southbourne, near Bournemouth, in the summer of 1915, frequently bathing even in the roughest of seas, has been instrumental in raising locally a considerable sum for the Society, and in November, 1915, an artist, the late Mr. Arthur Bell, held an exhibition and sale of his paintings for the benefit of the Blind, the Society receiving £70 as its share, £50 of which are

invested towards the formation of a Bell Memorial Pension Fund. Mr. W. F. Lattey, the Hon. Secretary, is to be congratulated on the continued progress of the Society, in which he has taken so keen an interest from its inception.

26. We have received a copy of the "report of the 1st annual convention on the education of the Blind and the Deaf of the Far East" held in Korea, and in the account of the inception and development of the Conference there is an interesting, but all too brief, record of the life of Mr. T. Yoshimoto, so well known to many of us in England, who has done so much to educate, and to raise the status of, the Blind in Japan, especially in Tokyo. The Conference was a great success, and attended by delegates from China, Japan, and America, despite many experts being prevented from being present either on account of the war, or of the destruction by a flood of several miles of railway near Pyong Yang, where the meeting was held. The Rev. C. S. L. Sites, of the Anglo-Chinese School, Foochow, was elected Chairman, and Mr. Nakamura, Vice-Chairman. The latter was for some time at the Royal Normal College and also was present at the last London Conference, which he attended on the eve of his return to Japan. In his opening address at the meeting in Korea he gave a summary of the papers read at the London Conference. One of the most interesting papers, from which we hope to quote in a future number, was that on "work among the Blind in China," by Mr. George B. Fryer. He estimates that the Blind in China are over a million, but the infanticide of girl babies, especially those who are blind, tends to keep down the total number of the Blind.

27. Miss Winifred Holt, who is now in America, gave a graphic account of the work of the "Lighthouses" for the Blind in France at an important meeting held on December 11th at the residence of Mrs. Edward H. Harriman. The Hon. Joseph H. Choate presided, and criticised adversely the methods of the American branch of the B.F.B. Blind War Relief Fund,

whose purpose he said, according to a recent statement, was to build Institutions for the blinded soldiers and not to give temporary relief. He, as President of the Committee for men blinded in battle, said they did not believe in shutting the blind men up in Institutions, but they believed in restoring them to their homes, their friends, and so far as possible, their old trades. Evidently there has been a good deal of confusion between the two organisations, which are entirely independent.

THE INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION FOR PROMOTING THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE BLIND, LONDON, W.

By Mr. Howard Mullins, F.C.I.S., Secretary and Manager.

In how many instances of famous Institutions and Associations have the histories begun with a record of lowly origin? Of the vast multitude of philanthropic agencies scattered throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain how many have been born in humble circumstances? It is very difficult to answer these questions with accuracy, but it is safe to say that the great majority of notable public charities which are to-day doing widespread and invaluable work have sprung from small beginnings and have been begotten by obscure founders, whose splendid self-sacrifice and dogged perseverance have won through against heavy odds.

We have it upon the best authority that the Incorporated Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind (257-258, Tottenham Court Road, and 1, Bedford Avenue and Morwell Street, London, W.), was a case in which at the outset all seemed well-nigh insuperable. Yet the excellence and the magnitude of the work of this Association at the present time is recognised as being second to none in the civilised world. Let us, very briefly, recall "the day of small things." Let us look back and see how a gigantic tree with many branches has grown up from a tiny seed.

On the 7th August, in the year 1826, was born Elizabeth Margaretta Maria Gilbert, second daughter and third child of Ashurst Turner Gilbert, Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford, afterwards Bishop of Chichester, and Mary Ann, daughter of the Rev. Robert Wintle, Vicar of Culham, Nr. Abingdon. At the tender age of three years Miss Gilbert became blind, as a result of scarlet fever, and she only just survived a very dangerous illness. Her life is well dealt with by Miss Frances Martin in her book "Elizabeth Gilbert and her work for the Blind" (Macmillan and Co.), and to this deeply interesting volume I have had to make repeated reference. When the child grew up she began to take a great practical and spiritual interest in the condition and many needs of the Blind, and she realized that someone of energy and enterprise must be found to befriend the poor, afflicted ones, someone who could and would supply material, give useful and uplifting employment, and dispose of the results of their patient labours. In the month of May, 1854, she courageously started a scheme with this object in view. Her faith and her inspiration were wonderful. To begin with, seven blind men were employed at their own homes, material was supplied to them at cost price, the articles which they made were sold, and they received the full selling price, less, of course, the bare cost of the rough material.

A cellar (just think of its modesty) was taken in New Turnstile, Holborn, at a weekly rental of 1s. 6d. A Mr. Wm. Hanks Levy, a blind man, was appointed manager, with a salary of 2s. 6d. a week and a small percentage commission on the sales. Levy secured the help of another blind man, named Farrow, who was for many years the foreman of what afterwards became the Brush Department. It was Farrow who made the necessary fittings for the cellar in Holborn.

Three months later, in August, 1854, Levy's wages were advanced to 10s. a week, and the cost of maintaining the Institution (for such it now was) amounted to no more than 2s. 2d. a week. Subsequently a repository was taken, at 83, Cromer Street, Brunswick Square, Bloomsbury, and the cellar

in Holborn was given up. The Institution grew and prospered, and after six months in Holborn and eight months in Cromer Street, it was resolved after anxious deliberation to take a house and a shop (mark this step) at 21, South Row, New Road, which is now known at Euston Road. Levy, it was arranged, should receive 12s. 6d. a week as manager, and his wife, 25 per cent. on all articles sold. In July, 1855, a Committee of Management was formed, consisting of Mr. F. Green, of Messrs. F. Green and Co., Mr. Futvoye, the Rev. Canon Dale, Miss Gilbert, Captain Fyers, and a few others, but up to this time no Association had been actually formed, and there were no committee meetings held. On the 4th of February, 1856, Her Majesty Queen Victoria graciously sent a cheque for £50 to Miss Gilbert, towards the needy funds of the new Association, and the Duchess of Gloucester followed with another gift of money. This was immediately followed by a number of further generous subscriptions.

Towards the end of 1856 a formal list of well-considered rules was drawn up and submitted at a General Meeting of subscribers, held on the 19th December. The Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind was then duly and solemnly formed, the rules were discussed and approved and adopted as the Laws of the Association. Another Committee was appointed on 1st January, 1857, and during the same year the very first Report and Balance Sheet of the Society were published. A meeting took place on the 26th of the following May, presided over by the Lord Bishop of London, the Lord Bishop of Oxford being amongst the speakers. In the Annual Report issued for May, 1858, appears the following paragraph:—

“Your Committee feel that their Report would be very
 “imperfect if they did not allude to the great services
 “which have been rendered to this Society during the
 “last year by Miss Gilbert, the foundress of the
 “Association. Whenever pecuniary embarrassment has
 “threatened the efficiency of the Institution, her active
 “zeal has soon replenished the funds; and when the
 “Association has been unable to relieve the most dis-

“tressing cases that have been pressed on their notice, the sufferers have found her ever ready to afford them kindly help, and that, too, in a way which has shown such sympathising interest in their privations, as well as so much consideration for their feelings, that the value of the aid thus afforded can be fully appreciated only by those who have received it.”

In this year a large oil painting of the Association's blind men and women at work was painted by Mr. Hubbard, purchased by subscription for the sum of £10 10s. od., and still hangs in the Council room of the Association. An engraving from the picture appeared in the *The Illustrated News* for the 24th of April, 1858, which was followed by letters in *The Times*, *The Daily News*, and other newspapers, as well as by an absorbing article in *Household Words*, entitled “At Work in the Dark,” by the immortal Charles Dickens. These Press notices resulted in the receipt of many subscriptions and donations which greatly helped forward the good and increasing work of the Association. It was about this time that Miss Gilbert presented the Association with £2,000 as an Endowment Fund. On the 7th May, 1859, Her Majesty Queen Victoria most graciously consented to grant her patronage to the Association. This was a very welcome and gratifying mark of Royal sympathy. In May, 1859, the Bishop of Oxford raised the sum of £400, heading the list himself with a donation of £20. The Association was visited during this year by Herr Herzel, a Director of the Blind Institution at Lausanne, who was so pleased and interested with all he saw, that he resolved to open similar workshops for the Blind in Switzerland.

In the year 1861 the affairs of our Association appear to have been on the downward path. Details are not recorded very fully, but it is clear that there was a debt of £1,400 hanging over the heads of the Committee, and a falling off in the trade returns. The Annual Meeting for that year was again presided over by the Bishop of London, and some donations were received which somewhat improved the financial condition.

In the year 1862 the difficulties of the Association had increased; subscriptions and donations together only amounted to between £2,000 and £3,000, and the result of the sale of goods to about an equal sum. The sales, however, did not appear to be keeping pace with the quantity of articles manufactured, and consequently a large stock accumulated. A sub-committee was appointed for the purpose of investigating the disastrous financial state of things.

At the Annual Meeting in May, 1863, the late Mr. W. E. Gladstone, who was at that time Chancellor of the Exchequer, was the principal speaker. He said :—

“ While this Association aims to promote the general
 “ welfare of the Blind, it aims at promoting that welfare
 “ in a very specific manner and by well-determined
 “ means. It is not founded on the idea that the blind,
 “ because they have suffered a great and heavy visita-
 “ tion, are therefore to be the mere passive recipients
 “ of that which the liberality of their fellow creatures
 “ may bestow. It does not proceed on the idea that
 “ because the blind are so, they have therefore ceased
 “ to partake in other respects in that mysterious nature
 “ of which we are all partakers, with its immense
 “ capabilities and powers, with its high hopes and great
 “ dangers. For in all other respects the blind continue
 “ to be sharers in everything pertaining to us as men;
 “ and if I rightly apprehend the idea of this Institution,
 “ it is this, that while we minister to the wants of the
 “ blind in a specific manner, yet, we still consider them
 “ as rational beings, as members of society, as capable
 “ of various purposes, as not intended to be sent into a
 “ corner, or to be excommunicated from us; but as
 “ intended to bear their part as citizens, as enlightened
 “ and civilized creatures, and as Christians. Employ-
 “ ment given to the blind is a great source of happiness.
 “ The sentence which was termed the primeval curse,
 “ if on one side it presented the aspect of a curse,

“also presented on the other the aspect of a blessing—
 “the necessity, the condition of true happiness.
 “Employment is a blessing for us all, but it is much
 “more to the blind. Employment to the blind is the
 “condition of mental serenity, of comfort and resigna-
 “tion. Employment to the blind is also the condition
 “of subsistence—that is, of honourable and independent
 “subsistence. It is a great thing for an institution
 “when we are enabled to say that its rules and practice
 “are in harmony with political economy, for political
 “economy is founded on truth. I believe that the
 “rules of the Association are based on the laws which
 “regulate the accumulation and distribution of the
 “means of subsistence. In this Association we have
 “the union of what the coldest prudence would dictate,
 “and of what the most affectionate Christian heart
 “would desire.”

Naturally Mr. Gladstone's advocacy was extremely valuable, and quickly produced most gratifying pecuniary results. It would, by the way, be interesting to learn by whose, or by what, powerful influence the “G.O.M.” was prevailed upon to take part in the work of the Association. One must admit that modern Chancellors of the Exchequer are difficult personages to “bag” for like efforts in the charitable world now-a-days.

In May, 1865, instead of the Annual Meeting, a Bazaar was held in the aid of the funds of the Institution. The grounds of Argyle Lodge were kindly lent for the occasion by the Duke and Duchess of Argyle. Among the list of stall-holders were Lady Constance Grosvenor, Lady Blantyre, Lady Jocelyn, Lady Victoria Wellesley, the Marchioness of Waterford, Lady Anson, the Marchioness of Ormonde, Miss Gilbert, Lady Geraldine St. Maur. This Sale of Work produced £1,078 in gate money and proceeds of sale, and an additional £200 in donations.

In the Report for the following year the list of Vice-Patrons

included the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Dukes of Rutland and Argyle, the Earls of Abergavenny, Chichester, and Darnley, and the Bishops of St. David's, Chichester, Lichfield, Oxford, St. Asaph and Lincoln, also Lord Ebury, Lord Houghton, Mr. Gladstone, Sir Roundell Palmer, the Dean of Westminster, and Professor Fawcett.

At this stage the Association opened a West End shop at 210, Oxford Street, keeping the old premises, in Euston Road, as Workshops. In the autumn of this year a scheme was inaugurated to enable blind persons, living in the country, to learn a trade suited to their own neighbourhood, and to be instructed in reading and writing, without the expense of journeying to London. Blind teachers were sent to any village or town where there were blind persons whose friends were willing and able to provide for their instruction. These were taught at their own homes a remunerative trade, such as mat-making, chair-caning, &c., although the Association did not undertake to find and supply any work; this had to be secured in the neighbourhood.

The Annual Meeting in the year 1866 was presided over by the Archbishop of York, when the Balance Sheet for the year showed receipts amounting to £7,632. In this year the Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind referred to the Association's work in its Annual Report as follows;—

“The ‘Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the
 “Blind,’ founded in London by Miss E. Gilbert, is an
 “example of a very practical organization for the employ-
 “ment of the Blind, which has been alluded to in our
 “former reports. It gives work, in various ways, to adult
 “blind persons, many of whom were previously begging
 “in the streets. The deficiency of their earnings is
 “supplied by annual subscriptions and legacies, the
 “usual sources of support in Great Britain for the
 “benevolent institutions.

“Such institutions will never be self-sustaining. But the
 “support of an industrial association which enables

“every blind person to earn 100, 200, or 300 dollars a year, is certainly better than to throw such persons upon the charities of the wayside, or to consign them to pensioned idleness.”

In the autumn of 1866, Mr. F. Green presented to the Association five £100 shares in the Marine Insurance Company, of which he was a director. These shares yielded at that time £40 a year, and were, of course, a most acceptable financial item.

The following poem appeared in *Punch* on the 29th of December of this year :—

A BOX FOR BLINDMAN'S BUFF.

Sit down to eat and drink on this glad day,
And blessed be he that first cries “ Hold, enough ! ”
Gorge, boys and girls ; and then rise up to play,
You *can*. A game in season's Blindman's Buff.

The ready fillet round the seamless brow
Of youth or maiden, while quick fingers bind,
Beneath the golden-green pearl-berried bough,
What fun it is to play at being blind !

But some at Blindman's Buff with eyes unbound
Might join, for whom less sport that game would be
Because it is their life's continual round :
The Blindman's Buff of those that cannot see.

If poor, for alas, they can but grope about.
But Science to their need assistance lends ;
And “ knowledge, at one entrance quite shut out ”
Puts veritably at their fingers' ends.

Thus they who else would starve to labour learn,
Does that consideration strike your mind ?
Their living do you wish that they should earn,
Instead of crying “ Pity the poor blind ? ”

Then know, there's not a charitable Dun,
Subscription seeking at your gate who knocks,
That more deserves your bounty than the one
Who for the Blind requests a Christmas Box.

At Oxford Street's two hundred and tenth door
 Inquire within about the Blind Man's Friend.
 Or send your guinea, if you like, or more ;
 As many more as you can spare to send.

Punch, 29th December, 1866.

At the meeting held on the 14th May, 1868, Mr. Gladstone (now a staunch and firm friend of the Association), Mr. Fawcett and Professor Owen were amongst the principal speakers.

The Annual Meeting in the year 1872 was presided over by H.R.H. the Duke of Teck.

Mr. William Hanks Levy died on 20th January, 1874. He had been superintendent of the Association for twenty years, ever since its first formation, and the able and confidential adviser of his fellow-worker and foundress, Miss Gilbert.

The Association moved into its new premises, 28, Berners Street, in March, 1876.

In 1880 a legacy of £10,000 was left by Mr. Gardner to the Association.

On 2nd May, 1882, a concert was held, by the kindness of the Duke of Westminster, at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, and after all incidental expenses were paid, benefited the Association to the extent of over £326.

The Association sustained a very great and serious loss by the death of its benevolent foundress and Lady President in 1885. Miss Elizabeth Gilbert died on 7th February of that year, after many years of great suffering patiently borne. The deceased lady, it may be noted, was born on the 7th day of a month, and died on the 7th day of a month.

In 1890 in consequence of the pressing demand for more space, and as the lease of the premises in Berners Street was expiring, the Association found it necessary to find more commodious premises, and eventually obtained a suitable and favourable site in Tottenham Court Road, where they hoped to build a new Institution, which would enable them to largely increase the room for a greater number of blind workers and

pupils. It was felt that a large Institution of this nature would carry out the wishes of the late foundress, one of whose greatest desires was to have good, permanent and fitting premises. The present fine building was completed and ready for occupation, and taken over in March, 1893, when the lease of the old premises expired. A special Building Fund had been opened, and £712 was raised, exclusive of £2,900 collected by the foundress, £500 being promised by the Trustees of Gardner's Trust, as soon as the Association had collected £6,000, in addition to the amount already raised.

To accomplish the fervent desire of the late foundress, i.e., to erect an Institution and permanent premises suitable for the Blind in a central and convenient part of London, with the requisite accommodation for carrying on the trades then being taught, and also to introduce others suitable to the Blind, had long been the earnest aim of the Committee.

On the death at this time of one of the Trustees of the Association, Mr. Henry King, who had been connected with the Society since its foundation, Colonel Williams, of Messrs. Williams Deacons Bank, readily and most kindly consented to take Mr. King's place, and this he filled until the Incorporation of the Society in the year 1911, when he was unanimously elected a Vice-Patron.

On Tuesday, June 27th, 1893, Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, accompanied by Her Highness Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, drove up to the new building in Tottenham Court Road, where she was received by the President of the Association, His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury; by the Chairman, Admiral Sir Edward Sotheby, K.C.B., and the members of the Committee. The Princess and her suite were conducted to the Board Room, where there was a large gathering of influential people specially invited to meet Her Royal Highness, including the Duchess of Bedford and Lord Ampthill, representing the Duke of Bedford, who was unavoidably absent.

After listening sympathetically to an address of welcome

and an outline of the history of the Institution since its foundation by Miss Gilbert in a cellar in Holborn, the Princess kindly received several well-filled purses presented by some young ladies, and then graciously pronounced the Institution opened, warmly wishing it every possible success.

Her Royal Highness was subsequently conducted through the various work rooms, inspecting with an interested and kindly eye all the Blind work people at their different trades (with those who had been pensioned off) and expressing much pleasure at all she saw. Her Royal Highness spoke many encouraging words to the men and women, which were fully and gratefully appreciated by them.

The cost of the new building was paid in the year 1894 by legacies and donations which had accumulated during several years, although the Association began to feel that the expenses, principally owing to the very high rates and taxes, were constantly increasing, whilst the subscriptions and donations were, alas, diminishing.

In 1896 the Committee reported that the demand for tuition was so great that, owing to the want of funds, they were quite unable to increase the number of workers. Unlike many other similar Institutions, pupils of this Association were not turned adrift when they had once learnt their trade; the Association continued to employ them until, through failing health or old age, they were no longer able to work, when they were granted a pension.

In 1897, and for many years subsequently, the Reports of the Society constantly refer to the unfortunate fact that the state of its funds was causing the Committee great anxiety, mainly because of the want of working capital and the falling off of subscriptions. In those days the balance at the Bankers was being constantly overdrawn. In the year 1901, in common with all other Charitable Institutions, the Association had to deplore the loss of its generous Patron, Her Majesty Queen Victoria, who, for a period of forty-three years, had graciously taken a warm and practical interest in the affairs of the Institution.

Their Gracious Majesties, King Edward VII. and Queen Alexandra, were pleased to accede to the request of the Committee to become Patrons of the Institution.

Admiral Sir Edward Sotheby, K.C.B., vacated his position of Chairman of the Committee during this year (1897) a position which he had held with distinction for twenty-four years. The success of the Institution had been largely due to his careful supervision and untiring energy. His valuable connection with the Association, however, was continued by his acceptance of the position of Vice-President. Lieut.-Col. J. A. S. Colquhoun, late Royal Artillery, was unanimously elected to fill the position of Chairman, in place of Admiral Sir Edward Sotheby.

It will be remembered that about this time our present King, then Prince of Wales, took a world tour on board H.M.S. Ophir. All the mats and other articles used on board were specially made and supplied by the Institution, the order being carried out to the entire satisfaction of the authorities, and of the Orient Steamship Company, who gave the order.

In January of the year 1902 the Association had to deplore the death of Admiral Sir Edward Sotheby, to whom above all others, save only Miss Gilbert, the Association owed its then present satisfactory position. For upwards of thirty years, during twenty-four of which he was Chairman of the Committee, he took an alert and prominent part in the direction of the affairs and best interests of the Institution, and it was to his devotion, too, and his unceasing care and watchfulness over its activities that its gradual development from small beginnings to its present sphere of usefulness is largely due. By his death the blind people lost a true friend. A number of the older workers showed their sense of the loss they had sustained by attending the Commemoration Service, which was held at St. Mary's, Bryanston Square. Sir Edward passed to the Great Beyond knowing that he had done more than most of us to lift the Curtain of Night from the shoulders of our afflicted brothers and sisters.

In the Report for the year 1903 the Committee announced,

with the deepest regret, the death of Lady Sotheby, who, for more than ten years, had been one of the most regular attendants at their meetings, and who both during the lifetime of her husband, the late Admiral Sir Edward Sotheby, and after his death, had never failed to take the keenest interest in all the many matters connected with the welfare of the Institution.

In the year 1908 the Committee had again to call the attention of the public to the fact that the Institution had for some time been entrenching on its all too slender invested funds, and that during the year they had to realize securities to the extent of £5,900 with which to clear off an overdraft at the bankers and debts incurred in former years. The Committee added that they were sanguine of introducing in the coming year some economies in expenditure (outside wages to the Blind) which would put the Institution in a more hopeful and satisfactory state.

During this year (1908) the Association lost the valuable services of Lieut.-Col. Colquhoun, as Chairman, after fourteen years' indefatigable efforts on behalf of the Blind. This gentleman's work was warmly acknowledged by the Committee and everyone connected with the Association. Mr. C. W. Archer was unanimously elected in his stead, and has held the position up to the present time. Under his able and enthusiastic Chairmanship, untiring interest and energy, the Association has made very great progress. History was in the making when Mr. Archer became Chairman.

Following the much lamented and sudden death of King Edward VII in 1910, their Most Gracious Majesties, King George V and Queen Mary, graciously acceded to the request of the Committee that they would become Patrons of the Society.

In this year, also, the Financial condition of the Association began to show unmistakable signs of improvement; subscriptions and donations were increased, and a larger number of most deserving blind people were employed.

It is, as a matter of course, impossible for a Blind Institution to adopt the ordinary procedure of commercial

houses in times of slackness of trade. In the ordinary way of business routine, if there is no work, or less work, the workmen not required are dismissed. The step is absolutely necessary if profits are expected—as they always are. This Society, in like circumstances, *keeps all its hands, and pays them the average wage earned!*

The following year (1911) was marked as a most notable one in the history of the Institution—a year of records. Subscriptions, donations and sales were all greatly increased, as also were the amount of wages, supplementary wages, gifts, pensions, &c., paid to the Blind. During the year the Association was granted a Certificate of Incorporation by the Board of Trade, which greatly strengthened the constitution of the Society. Owing to the State Insurance Act which came into operation in 1912, it was with the utmost regret that the old Sick Club, which had existed for the benefit of the Blind almost since the beginning of the Institution, had to be closed. The Institution sustained another severe loss at this time by the death of Miss E. D. Gilbert, a sister of the Foundress. She had joined the Committee in the year 1888, and worked unceasingly until 1905, when she became one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association. Miss Gilbert always displayed the liveliest interest in all matters affecting the Blind.

In 1913 the following names were added to the list of Vice-Patrons of the Association. His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Right Rev. Bishop Ryle, Dean of Westminster, the Very Rev. the Dean of Wells, the Very Rev. Dr. Hertz, Chief Rabbi, the Rev. F. B. Meyer, B.A., the Most Honble. the Marchioness of Salisbury and Sir George Riddell.

In the latter part of 1914, on the outbreak of the War, there was a slight falling off in the trade done, and the Association soon began to experience the difficulties arising from the advance in the price of material and other economic consequences of the War, but in the following year (1915) there was a considerable improvement in the trade, and, no doubt,

a much larger business could have been carried on but for the difficulties in obtaining the necessary materials. The expenses were very greatly increased owing to this state of things and to the War Bonuses allowed the blind work people in order to enable them to meet the greatly increased cost of living. At this time two Members of the Council and six Members of the Staff were reported as being on military service.

The Association for some years past had been looking forward to largely extending the scope of its operations by taking over the adjoining premises in Tottenham Court Road, but felt that they ought not to proceed in this direction until the outlook appeared brighter.

Such, very briefly, is the history up-to-date of the Incorporated Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind. This Association is working energetically and hopefully in a splendid cause. The Council endeavour to live *in an atmosphere of faith*, and so long as we have our present Chairman at the head of affairs, I cannot see any reason for supposing that our work will decline in any single branch.

Perhaps I may be allowed to add what I heard the famous Chairman of one of our biggest London Hospitals say only the other day. He was making a speech at a public dinner, and he confessed that the position of most Chairmen was not unlike the position of a prize carnation at a flower show! He said that the prize carnation may be very good to look upon and may be a great ornament and centre of attraction, but it is the stick behind the prize carnation that enables the flower to hold up its head. This modest Chairman implied by this that a Chairman, as such, could not be of much real service without the stick (by that he meant the Secretary). Let me say that in the case of this Association, at least, the Secretary does not and never did claim to be the stick that holds up the flower! Our Chairman has a full and firm grasp of all the details of the work, and his colleagues, as well as the Secretary, look to him to bring the work of this Association to a state of prosperity that will be permanent and beneficent. In this way The Curtain of Night will be lifted for countless blind ones who have a right to a share in this world's blessings.

THE BLIND.

VOLUME • V.

1917 to 1919

(inclusive).

LONDON:

GARDNER'S TRUST FOR THE BLIND,
53, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

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The Blind.

VOL. V.

No. 81.

JANUARY 21ST, 1918.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before March 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. It is with profound sorrow and sympathy, which we know our readers will sincerely share, that we refer to the death in action of the Hon. Arthur Middleton Kinnaird, Scots Guards, third son of Lord Kinnaird, Chairman of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and Lady Kinnaird. He was killed on November 27th at the early age of thirty-two, and had received the Military Cross for gallant and efficient service in the field only in October last. Mr. Arthur Kinnaird was educated at a preparatory school at Westgate-on-Sea, and afterwards at Eton College. For some years he worked at Barclay's Bank, Ltd., Pall Mall East, but when war broke out he served with the University and Public School Brigade, receiving a commission in April, 1915. In October, 1915, he was made A.D.C. to the Major-General commanding a Division, and was afterwards transferred to the Scots Guards. He was one of the Trustees of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, and was also Hon. Treasurer of the College of Teachers of the Blind. All those who knew by experience the ability and thoroughness with which any work he undertook was done will realize how great is the loss which his departure from among us involves, and will long remember the pleasant and friendly manner which endeared him to all classes of society, and revealed every speech or act of kindness from him as the natural and gracious outcome of the heart of one who truly "loved his fellow men."

2. Mr. Sanderson-Furness, the blind Principal of Ruskin College, has been appointed on the Committee for Economics at Oxford.

3. Mr. William Murray, M.A., to whom we have referred on several occasions, has won the Baxter Scholarship in Mental Philosophy of the value of £130 a year for three years.

4. Mr. Percy C. Nichols, B.A., a former student of the Royal Normal College, graduate of Wadham College, Oxford, and recently at Salisbury Theological College, was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of London on December 23rd at St. Paul's Cathedral, to a curacy at Feltham, Middlesex.

5. The following remarks refer to former students of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester:— Messrs. E. H. Boyce and W. V. Miede went last October to Hatfield Hall, Durham. Mr. H. J. E. Rogers-Rapson has been appointed organist at Lord Cadogan's private chapel. Mr. J. L. Sowden, B.A., has left Peterhouse, Cambridge, and has been appointed a master at a large preparatory school for boys at Cranley, Surrey. Mr. W. Wobstenholme has resumed his duties, as organist, at All Saints, Norfolk Square. Mr. H. G. Oke, A.R.A.M., has been acting as temporary organist at All Saints Parish Church, Margate.

6. Miss Simpson, Miss Crabb, and Miss Anderson are now recognised by the Scotch Education Department as Certificated Teachers of the Blind. They were students of the Royal Blind School, Edinburgh, and received their training at the Provincial Committee Training College.

7. Heroic conduct on the part of a Colonel, name not given, recently came to hand. He was blinded in both eyes, and with a bandage over them, he told an orderly to lead him by the hand to the front line held by his men, and on finding them he spoke thrilling words, which greatly encouraged them to

fight on. He then got into touch with some troops on his right and told them that his men were still holding their line, so that the situation might yet be saved.

8. On the 31st of December last Mr. Hugh E. Walford completed twenty-five years of voluntary work amongst the Blind in Reading, and the result of his efforts is most encouraging and satisfactory. There is not a single blind beggar in the town with a population of 95,000, and from the interest on the Endowment Fund of over £4,000 raised by Mr. Walford, pensions are granted to the deserving and needy Blind. In 1917 the receipts of the Reading Blind Aid Society from all sources amounted to £843. Every known blind person is comfortably housed and decently clothed.

9. It is with very great pleasure that we are able to announce that at a meeting of the General Court of Christ's Hospital held on January 2nd, 1918, the following resolutions were adopted :—"That consequent on the recent Report of the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, the following alterations in the administration of the Rev. William Hetherington's Charity to the Blind be adopted :—

- (1) That the following definition of blindness be accepted :
" Blindness means too blind to perform work for which eyesight is essential."
- (2) That the Parish relief disqualification be limited to those who have received such relief within the three years preceding the date of application ; and that grants for industrial training (like medical out relief) be not deemed Parish relief.
- (3) That the annuities be payable half yearly."

We are quite sure that these decisions will be gladly welcomed by the Blind, and be much appreciated by those who work on their behalf. This is the first fruit—a very valuable and important one—of the Report of the Departmental Committee, and we are confident that very many more benefits for the Blind will promptly arise therefrom.

10. A very important and successful conference of representatives of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the benefit of the Blind was held on December 7th in the Armitage Hall of the National Institute for the Blind at the invitation of the President and Council. As the proceedings are to be published, it is unnecessary to make more than a brief reference to them here. Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.C.B.E., presided, and gave the opening address, and the Right Hon. W. Hayes Fisher, M.P., President of the Local Government Board, also gave an address.

The following resolution moved by Dr. Ranger, and seconded by Mr. Alfred Wilson, Chairman of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Birmingham, was carried unanimously—
 “That this meeting, representative of the various organizations for the Blind, views with much satisfaction the announcement that His Majesty’s Government has decided to take action with regard to the Recommendations of the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, and pledges itself to work in loyal co-operation with any and all Committees which may be set up to deal with the amelioration of the condition of the Blind.”

Many important points in the Departmental Committee’s report were discussed.

The names of the Advisory Committee, appointed by the President of the Local Government Board, to advise the Board on matters relating to the care and supervision of the Blind including any question which may specially be referred to them by the Department, were announced, and are as follow :—

Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P. (Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board (Chairman).

Mr. Henry J. Wilson (Vice-Chairman).

Miss E. W. Austin,

Mrs. Wilton Phipps,

Mr. Guy M. Campbell,

Mr. Miles Priestley,

Mr. P. M. Evans,

Mr. Ben Purse,

Mr. Charles Hartley,

Mr. Henry Stainsby,

Mr. G. F. Mowatt,

Mr. W. H. Thurman,

Mr. Alexander Pearson,
Sir Arthur Pearson, Bt.

Mr. H. C. Warrilow,

A cordial vote of thanks to Sir Arthur Pearson for presiding was moved by Mr. Henry J. Wilson, who referred to the Chairman's clear and masterly summing up of the various questions discussed. The vote was seconded by Mr. Mathewson Watson, and carried with acclamation. A hearty vote of thanks was also accorded to Mr. Hayes Fisher for his invaluable assistance in carrying out so promptly the formation of the Advisory Committee and in many other ways, on the motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Sir Arthur Pearson, and carried unanimously.

11. The Examination of Candidates for Gardner Scholarships tenable at the Royal Normal College, are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19.

12. The Honorary Oculist of the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind is in complete accord with the idea that much valuable information with subsequent benefit to the Blind is likely to be obtained by a collective investigation carried out in all the Institutions for the Blind in the United Kingdom. Dr. Fergus has drawn up a schedule for the Glasgow Institution, and both he and the Directors will be very glad to enter into any joint effort to get accurate information, and as a consequence will be happy to alter the schedule, a copy of which can be obtained from the Superintendent, in any direction that may be thought proper.

13. A meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, on October 20th, at 11.30 a.m. There were present Miss Garaway, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. Guy Campbell,

W. H. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, T. H. Martin, A. P. Pearson, A. W. G. Ranger, J. M. Ritchie, H. Stainsby, W. H. Thurman, and H. J. Wilson in the chair. Letters were read from the Board of Education in regard to the recognition of the successful candidates at the 1917 examination, and also approving the appointment of the examiners for 1918.

The syllabus for the 1918 examination was discussed and passed. A letter from Miss Snowball, of the Barclay Home for Blind Girls at Brighton, was read in regard to teaching physical exercise and drill.

The annual meeting will probably be held in March, but the date was not definitely settled at this meeting.

14. The following books in Braille have been recently added to the Oxford Public Library:—Lord Acton's "Lectures on Modern History," J. S. Mill's "Principles of Political Economy" Books, i. and iv., and Kirkpatrick on the Psalms. One of the voluntary writers is eighty-nine years of age.

15. The annual general meeting of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, was held on December 20th, when the annual report (the 124th) for the year ended September 30th, 1917, was presented. It shows very satisfactory progress in all the various departments. During the year about 280 blind persons have been educated, maintained, and employed, and there have been eighty outdoor beneficiaries. The Higher Education Department is now on the threshold of extended usefulness in consequence of the splendid gift of £5,000 from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. In the Industrial Department the sales amounted to £25,744. At West Craigmillar on September 30th there were in residence fifty women, twenty-four girls, and twenty six boys. The Scottish blinded soldiers' and sailors' hostel at Newington House is now nearly full, and new workshops are in course of erection.

16. Splendid work was done during 1917 at the Royal Asylum for the Blind, Glasgow. Every child on attaining the age of

sixteen, and every eligible adult applicant were admitted to the Workshop. The minimum wages for married men are 31s. a week, for single men 29s. and for girls 18s. 6d. The sales amounted to £40,040, and the profit was £3,570.

17. It will interest our readers to hear that the Committee of the Royal Institution for the Blind, Bradford, have just revised the War Bonus scheme for the fifth time during the war. The married men now receive a War Bonus of 10s. per week in addition to pre-war wages. Single men receive 9s. per week, women receive 8/- per week. Those whose pre-war wages were over 21/- per week and others who are in receipt of a pension in addition to war bonus receive 1s. per week *less* than the above. The estimated cost of War Bonus is nearly £2,000 per year, towards which the Bradford City Council very generously make a grant of £1,000 per annum. This timely assistance by the Corporation is very much appreciated by the Committee and the employees themselves.

This Institution has set an excellent example by giving the blind employees such generous help, and we much hope that other Institutions will note what has been done and try to do likewise.

18. Arrangements have now been completed for the establishment of a Home for Mentally Defective Blind in Birmingham. A lady has kindly given twelve acres of freehold land for this purpose, and the Committee of the Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind approached the Council of the National Institute with a view to the adoption of a joint scheme for the erection of a building and the management of the same. Under this scheme the establishment will be managed by a Committee representing the National Institute and the Birmingham Institution, the National Institute undertaking to provide the money for the erection of the building.

The problem of the Mentally Defective Blind is a very important one, as the available accommodation in this country is so limited.

It is not proposed to commence building operations until the war is concluded, neither has it been decided at present how many to provide accommodation for.

19. The Committee of the Blind Work Dépôt at 53, Church Road, Wimbledon, having found some difficulty in carrying on the work of the shop without the services of the blind man, G. Foote, who is now an instructor at St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors, approached Sir Arthur Pearson and asked him whether St. Dunstan's could take over the management of the shop with a view to furthering the sale of articles made by blinded soldiers. Sir Arthur Pearson gave his consent to the carrying out of this proposal.

ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS FOR THE BLIND.

The following circular letter has been issued:—

DEAR SIR (OR MADAM),

For years past a need has been urgently felt for some Association among workers for the Blind which would provide a common meeting ground for the exchange of thought and experience, and for the discussion of questions of interest.

At a meeting of workers for the Blind, convened by Mr. H. J. Wilson on October 20th to discuss the Report of the Departmental Committee, there were present so many workers from all parts of the country that it was deemed a good opportunity to bring the idea of an Association once more to the fore. So much interest was then expressed that it has been decided to send a circular to as many as possible in order to ascertain what general support is to be expected.

Such associations are usual in all sections of the community, and they exist in certain departments of the "blind world." But there is no existing organization which brings all interests together and provides opportunity for that intercourse for which there is so much need.

The greatest value of the Triennial Conference in the past has been just this meeting together in a democratic spirit of

individuals representing many different activities and interests, but their weakness has been their temporary nature.

What is proposed is briefly as follows:—

1. That an Association of Workers for the Blind be formed.
2. That the aims of the Association be—
 - (a) To afford facilities for arriving at a better understanding of problems affecting the amelioration and comfort of the Blind, including the furnishing of information and making of suggestions as to fresh avenues of usefulness and industry.
 - (b) To provide a channel for the expression of public opinion.
 - (c) To encourage social intercourse among workers in all sections.
3. That the annual subscription be 1/-.
4. That the Association be open to any person interested in the welfare of the Blind.

Naturally these suggestions are of a tentative nature, and will require ratification by the members, but if you are in favour of the idea outlined in this letter please send in your name as a prospective member to the *temporary* address—

THE HON. SECRETARY (*pro tem.*),

Association of Workers for the Blind,

53, Victoria Street,

London, S.W. 1.

and at the same time suggest, if you wish, any names for a preliminary Executive Committee of, say, fifteen members. Voting upon these nominations will be carried out through the post.

We are, dear Sir or Madam,

Yours faithfully,

A. A. ALLEN.

ARTHUR PEARSON.

R. ELLIS CUNLIFFE.

A. W. G. RANGER.

P. M. EVANS.

SHAW OF DUNFERMLINE.

STUART JOHNSON.

HENRY J. WILSON.

P.S.—As it is impossible to send circulars to all who will be interested, you will help the new Association if you will show this letter to any among your friends who are interested in the welfare of the Blind.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

The annual meeting of the Union of Unions for the Blind was held at 53, Victoria Street, on Friday, 19th October.

There were present from the Metropolitan Union, Mrs. Goodhart, Miss Jones, Mr. Guy Campbell and Mr. Wilson; from the Midland Union, Miss Merivale and Mr. Thurman; from the Northern Union, Miss Bellhouse, Mr. Booth and Mr. Priestley; from the North Western Union, Miss Comber; from the Western Union, Miss King and Mr. Gilbert; Mr. Dixon, Mr. Siddall and Mr. Stuart Johnson, Hon. Treasurer, were also present.

Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were received from Miss Emery, Miss Ffoulkes, Miss Beatrice Taylor, Miss Rayner, Mrs. Vere Stead, Mr. Burrows, Mr. Hall, Rev. S. F. Harris and Mr. Pine.

On the motion of Mr. Booth, seconded by Mr. Thurman, Mr. Wilson was unanimously elected Chairman.

In thanking the members for his election the Chairman referred to the following events: (1) the fact that the report of the Departmental Committee had been printed and issued. (2) The transference of the books of the Home Teaching Society's branch of the National Institute for the Blind to the National Lending Library, which was now free, and also of the books of the Catholic Truth Society and of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society.

On the motion of Mr. Priestley, seconded by Mr. Siddall, Miss Beatrice Taylor and Mr. Guy Campbell were unanimously re-elected Hon. Secretaries.

On the motion of Mr. Thurman, seconded by Mr. Dixon, Mr. Stuart Johnson was unanimously re-elected Hon. Treasurer.

After a short discussion upon the recommendations of the Departmental Committee, it was moved by Mr. Siddall, seconded

by Mr. Thurman and unanimously resolved :

“ That the Committee of the Union of Unions of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind in England and Wales heartily welcome the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind. They are of opinion that the recommendations are reasonable and practical, and would form the basis of a scheme for the permanent benefit of the Blind community. They urge His Majesty’s Government to set up the “ Central Authority ” as suggested in the Report for the purpose of giving effect to the Committee’s recommendations without delay.”

Copies of this resolution to be sent to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the President of the Local Government Board.

The question of the division of Areas for the best working of the Unions was discussed at length, and it was the unanimous opinion of the Meeting that the division of the Unions into Counties, to be further sub-divided if necessary, was the most practical.

Reports were made on the work during the past year by the organising secretaries of the Metropolitan Union, the Midland Union, the Northern Union, and the Western Union.

North of England Union. The general meeting was held, by the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Forbes, at their private house in Harrogate in October, when the following resolution, proposed by Mr. Tate, seconded by Mr. Robertson, was carried unanimously, “ That the Committee of the North of England Union approves of the Report and Recommendations of the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind, and urges the Government to pass them into law without delay. Copies of this Resolution to be forwarded to the Prime Minister and the President of the Local Government Board.”

It was further proposed by Mr. Priestley, seconded by Mr. Buchanan, and resolved “ That all Institutions and Societies in the Union be requested to adopt Resolutions similar to the foregoing.”

Mr. Booth and Mr. Priestley were elected representatives to attend the meeting of the Union of Unions on October 19th.

It was proposed by Mr. Booth, seconded by Mrs. Fennell, and resolved "That the best thanks of the meeting be accorded to Mr. and Mrs. Forbes for their kind hospitality."

Western Counties Union. A Meeting of the Committee was held at the Workshops for the Blind, Bristol, on Friday, November 23rd, Mr. F. Richardson Cross, F.R.C.S., &c., in the Chair.

In addition to other business the Report of the Departmental Committee was discussed in detail, and the following Resolutions were passed:—

1. That the Recommendations appended to the Report be generally approved, the hope being expressed that legislation on the lines of the Recommendations will be carried out without delay.

2. That every preparation possible be made by the Western Counties Union for co-operating with the New Government Department by developing and strengthening the Union's existing machinery.

3. That with this in view a Committee be formed in each of the six counties.

4. That wherever Institutions are in existence they shall be regarded as responsible for work for the Blind within an area of influence to be defined by them.

REPRESENTATIVE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 20th, 1917, TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

A meeting of workers for the Blind, numbering nearly 200 persons, was held by kind permission of the Committee of the National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, in their large hall, on Saturday, October 20th, at 2.30 p.m. The meeting was called to consider the recommendations in the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Blind.

Amongst those who were present were—Mr. A. A. Allen, M.P., Mr. G. J. Wardle, M.P., and representatives from the

Clothworkers' Company, Gardner's Trust, National Institute, National Library, National League, and St. Dunstan's Hostel; from the following Schools and Workshops in Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Devonport, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Greenwich, Leatherhead, Liverpool (Hardman Street), Liverpool (Cornwallis Street), London Association for the General Welfare of the Blind, Eyes to the Blind, Federation Board of London Workshops, London Association, London Society for Teaching the Blind, West London Workshops, L.C.C. Residential and Day Schools, Manchester (Henshaw's), Oldham, Oxford, Preston, Plymouth, Reading, Rochdale, Royal Normal College, Southsea, Swiss Cottage, and Worcester College; and from the After-Care Association, Blind Social Aid, Buckingham Association, Home Teaching Society (London), Indigent Blind Visiting Society, Metropolitan Union, Midland Counties Union, National Blind Relief Society, Northern Counties Blind Society, North of England Union, North-West Union, Royal Blind Pension Society, South London Association, "Weekly Summary," Western Counties Union, and the West of England Union.

On the motion of Mr. Stuart Johnson, seconded by Mr. P. M. Evans, Mr. Wilson was voted to the chair. On taking the chair, Mr. Wilson, as Vice-Chairman of the National Library for the Blind, heartily welcomed all those present in the new buildings, generously given to the library by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. He felt much gratified to see in response to his invitation such a large representative gathering, including delegates from Scotland and Ireland. After settling points of procedure for the meeting, Mr. Wilson expressed a hope that the discussion would be useful and profitable, and having been a member of the Departmental Committee he wished to say that the Committee were exceptionally fortunate in having Mr. Hayes Fisher as Chairman, and Mr. Barter as Secretary. Two better men could not have been found to fill the respective posts. He was convinced that a very important epoch in the history of the Blind had been reached, and that the workers who are trustees for the Blind and for future genera-

tions of the Blind must endeavour to leave a good record of their trusteeship by doing all that was possible for the permanent benefit of the Blind. After urging all speakers to be as brief as possible and to confine their remarks to the subject before the meeting, Mr. Wilson called on Mr. M. Priestley, Manager and Secretary of the Royal Institution for the Blind, Bradford, to open the discussion.

Mr. Priestley read the following resolution, "That this meeting of representatives of Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind, held at Westminster, October 20th, 1917, heartily welcome and approve the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Welfare of the Blind. They are of opinion that the recommendations are reasonable and practical, and that they would form the basis of a scheme for the permanent benefit of the Blind community. They urge His Majesty's Government to set up the "Central Authority" as suggested in the Report, for the purpose of giving effect to the Committee's recommendations without delay."

Copies of this resolution if carried to be sent to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and to the President of the Local Government Board.

Mr. Priestley said that it afforded him great pleasure to move this resolution, because after many years of earnest effort there appears to be good reason to believe that in the near future radical improvements will be effected for the benefit of the Blind community in all quarters of the kingdom. He wished to speak as a wholehearted supporter of the Report and the recommendations which the meeting is called upon to consider. It is the best thing ever done for the welfare of the Blind. The Committee responsible for these recommendations was a very representative body. The 53 witnesses examined were called upon because of their special knowledge of some phase of the subject. The 12,834 questions answered by the witnesses indicate to some extent the exhaustive nature of the enquiry. He felt that a deep debt of gratitude is due to the Committee for their great work in producing such an excellent Report and in making such practicable recommendations.

The time has now come when all workers for the Blind should unite in urging the Government to set up the Central Authority with instructions to give effect to the recommendations, without delay.

In the House of Commons on March 11th, 1914, Mr. Herbert Lewis, speaking on behalf of the Government in reference to this matter, said "the enquiry was not to be regarded as a postponement but an indispensable preliminary to definite action."

At a meeting in the Mansion House a fortnight ago Mr. Hayes Fisher spoke with emphasis. He said he was determined to do things. The State in the near future would be called upon to do a great deal more than it had done in the past to make the Blind more self-supporting. When the President of the Local Government Board speaks in that strain it is a sign that things are moving.

He was fully convinced that if workers for the Blind throughout the country will support these recommendations in the true spirit in which they are submitted, the lot of the Blind will soon be made happier, and they will enter into a newness of life and a land of promise that have long been looked for. He suggested that this is not the time to criticise every detail of the Report, but rather to take a broad outlook and estimate the gains. What are the benefits that these recommendations will give?

1. Central Control which will co-ordinate existing Societies and prevent neglect on the one hand and overlapping on the other.

2. Suitable employment for well-trained but unemployed blind persons in making articles required by the State if necessary.

3. A minimum living wage, probably with some additional incentive to encourage industry and enable the workers to enjoy the fruits of their labours to the utmost.

4. Training and assistance in any suitable walk of life for talented blind persons who give promise of success.

5. Pensions to be increased to a substantial sum, small

doles being considered undesirable. What a boon to many incapable blind persons.

6. Financial assistance from the State to make provision for the foregoing and other benefits to be carried out.

Such benefits would be worthy of all the earnest thought, devoted labour and untiring effort which they represent.

The reservations at the end of the Report are no doubt of great importance to the gentlemen who have signed them, and they should receive every reasonable consideration. He suggested that these reservations, together with other suggestions, which will probably be made, might, with every confidence, be left to the Central Authority for consideration. He took it for granted that these recommendations do not pretend to be the Alpha and Omega of the Welfare of the Blind, but from that basis a structure might be reared that would glad the hearts of the Blind and be a pride and pleasure to every subject of this great nation.

The resolution was formally seconded by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., Principal for the Royal School for the Blind at Leatherhead.

Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., after welcoming Mr. Wilson to the chair, stated that yesterday he had a conversation with Mr. Hayes Fisher, and that it would be within the recollection of most of those present that recently the Prime Minister made a very important statement with regard to the diversion of public funds to any purpose but War purposes at the present moment, that public money should be devoted at present to no purpose which was not entirely concerned with the progress of the War. He was sure that all agreed with him as to the importance of that resolution, but he was equally sure that all felt with him that the present time is a particularly propitious one to obtain the objects which have been set forth by the Departmental Committee on the Blind. Mr. Fisher has sent to every member of the War Cabinet a memorandum, and he gave permission to give the substance of that memorandum. It is to the effect that he most sincerely hopes that it may be the will of the War Cabinet that the new Authority shall be forthwith set up in the

office of the Local Government Board, and that the officers should be forthwith appointed. For this no legislation is needed. The argument which Mr. Fisher advanced cannot be disclosed, but he himself (Sir Arthur) has also approached the members of the War Cabinet, on the subject. He concluded by saying that he was sure that all had listened with great admiration to the masterly opening statement made by Mr. Priestley of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Bradford.

Mr. G. J. Wardle, M.P., said he felt in a somewhat anomalous position. He could not say that he had any secret and confidential document to disclose, but as one who is now in a position of some little importance, it was impossible for him to take a detached attitude. If there ever was a Departmental Committee, if there ever was a Report, and if there was in the House of Commons a discussion, it is due to the fact that there have been in this country, and are still to day, a large number of voluntary workers, of people who with their hearts and heads have devoted themselves to the task of working for the Blind, and it is owing equally to the fact of their labours that there has been a Departmental Committee. There is an opportunity now such as never before, for work on behalf of the Blind, and it is due to the fact that there have been for many years men like your Chairman, men and women in every rank of life who have given whole-hearted service to the cause of the Blind. He should like to pay his tribute to those workers, who before they saw any goal in sight at all, steadily worked for years on behalf of their less fortunate brothers and sisters. But by the time the motion which he had the honour to move in the House of Commons was made, it had become increasingly obvious that great as were these efforts and strenuous as were these services, something more was required. There was not that co-ordination, there was not that concentration upon the problem that was needed, and there was a good deal of overlapping. The Departmental Committee has taken the right course with regard to it, and he ventured to say that any little influence that he possesses, any little effort he can put forward, and anything which he can do either officially or unofficially, he will

gladly do in order that this problem may be pressed forward to a solution.

When he spoke in the House of Commons he was guilty of an epigram, he begged to repeat it. "A blind beggar is a challenge to the whole of society." He ventured to think that it is quite easy and possible to rid this country and this nation of the disgrace which has hitherto attached to it in regard to a problem of this kind.

There is another aspect to it. It is a problem which is manageable, it is compassable. It is possible to get round a problem of this kind, and he ventured to think, therefore, that there is all the more reason why with such a problem it is important to urge a settlement in a nation like this; in fact, that way to the settlement has been so adequately pointed out for many years that it is a still further disgrace that in view of that fact, matters were allowed to remain in the situation that they are in to-day.

He thought it his duty to-day to come down to this meeting, and to say that he thanked those who have hitherto worked, perhaps in more obscure ways than he was permitted to work, from the first in regard to this problem, and to urge them not to relax a single effort till they saw the crowning result of it in the appointment of a Central Authority.

With a Central Authority there is somebody to blame. With an Authority responsible, with the machinery at their disposal, there is no reason whatever why they should not carry out all the suggestions of the Departmental Committee, and as far as is possible they should be the eyes of the Blind, and if this is done he ventured to say that in regard to this work with which those present have been so honourably associated for many years, and with which many are so intimately connected, they would all rejoice together that they had made Great Britain the leading nation in regard to this great question.

Mr. W. Rochfort Wade, Secretary of the branch of the National Institute for the Blind in Ireland, expressed his pleasure in being present. He was much satisfied with the recommendations set forth in the Report. He supported the resolution

proposed by Mr. Priestley. He had heard it said that there were no blind pianoforte tuners in Ireland, but he had the names of three in his pocket.

He considered that a training school for tuners should be established in Ireland.

Mr. Michael Dodd, of the National Institute for the Blind, said that on looking through the Report of the Departmental Committee, he noticed that there was no special reference to the Deaf-Blind. He expected the reason was that their cause had not been altogether appreciated. He hoped that their case would be considered, and that it would be seen what can be done for them.

Miss Ingram, Secretary of the After-Care Association for the Blind, said that as Secretary of a Society which deals with the placing and the training of blind children in London, three points should be considered.

1. A recognised standard should be set up in each of the trades taught in Institutions for the Blind, and that all normal pupils at the end of their training should be expected to reach that standard.

2. Her belief that blind girls at any rate can become economically self-supporting after two years training if taught flat-machine knitting. Workshops should be run on commercial lines. Blind girls can earn a living wage.

3. She would respectfully submit to His Majesty's Government in view of the many interests involved, that the Advisory Committee should not be limited to seven members, and that not less than two women members should be appointed on the Committee.

Mr. A. A. Allen, M.P., said he was very glad that the Report had been so well received. It had been a pleasure to him to serve on that Committee. He thought it necessary to persevere in representing the claims of the Blind to the Government, and thus gain official recognition.

Miss Rothwell, Elm Court, L.C.C. School, reported on her work, and gave statistics of a number of girls trained in the school.

Mr. R. D. Smith, President of the National League of the Blind, stated that his Society accepted the Report in no way as a solution to the problem, but on the principle of "take what you can get, and fight for more." It was no good merely to discuss the Report, but they must endeavour to use every means in their power to give effect to it as soon as possible.

Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., stated that with regard to the opening remarks of the last speaker, it is not proposed to ask Parliament for any large sums of money at present. The proposal is that a capital sum of £500,000 should not be applied for until the end of the War, and that of the £250,000 a year, only a proportion should be asked for at the moment, sufficient to keep things going, in order that when the War ends it may then be possible to start the proceedings of the Central Authority upon well laid lines.

Mr. J. H. Mines, Member of the Committee of the Liverpool Workshops for the Blind, suggested that every case of blindness should be notifiable. This should be compulsory, and would prevent to a great degree the existence of blind beggars.

He further suggested that those who are in receipt of Pensions should have this sum in addition to their earnings, and thus be encouraged to make progress.

Sir Ellis Cunliffe, Chairman of the West London Workshops for the Blind, said that there would be a grant to increase places in Workshops for the Blind, and there is a provision as regards a minimum wage, but that it was no good increasing the number of people in the Workshops already in existence without making suitable provision financially and otherwise.

He did not quite understand the difference between minimum wage and grant in aid.

There is an example in Australia which might well be followed. Every blind man, woman or child has a "grant in aid" to level him up to his sighted brother or sister.

"Grants in aid" are the fairest way to start the Blind on a level, to enable them to do their work, and earn a wage equivalent to sighted people.

Miss Burnett, of the Reading Society for the Blind, said that the setting-up of a Central Authority would be death to the Unions. Why should there be preferential treatment for the Blind?

Miss Garaway, Lady Superintendent of the L.C.C. Residential School at Linden Lodge, Wandsworth, S.W. 18, said she was a little disappointed that the powers granted in part ii. of the 1902 Act for the secondary and technical education of the Blind were not made compulsory.

She hoped that the Advisory Committee would include at least two women.

Mr W. H. Tate, Member of the Committee of the Bradford Royal Institution for the Blind, wished to say that the setting-up of the Central Authority would *not* kill the Unions, as Miss Burnett seemed to think. The problem was so vast that it will call for other changes when the Advisory Committee has been called into actual being. He supported the Report on the grounds that it will at least set up an Authority to investigate the matter, as a great amount of work has not yet been set in motion. There are 33,000 people who are blind in the British Isles; the Central Authority will at least make some enquiries as to where they are, and under what circumstances they are living.

Mr. G. C. Brown, Headmaster of Worcester College for the Higher Education of the Blind, said that everything which tends to improve the education of the Blind is heartily welcome. He considered the Report rather lukewarm as regards secondary education. He hoped that the problem of establishing a large secondary school for training blind girls may be considered.

Mr. W. H. Dixon, of the Oxford Blind Society, thanked those who had drawn up the Report for their earnest work. He did not think the setting-up of a Central Authority would kill the Unions. When working for the Blind one should not be too much concerned with the welfare of the Society to which one belonged. One ought to be out to benefit the Blind themselves.

As only a portion of the £250,000 can be expended at

present, care should be taken that the money is disbursed in a definite object.

He approved of what Mr. Brown had said about providing a school for blind girls. He hoped the Advisory Committee would not be too unwieldy.

Mr. P. Fairhurst, of the National League of the Blind, thought that piece-work system should be abolished, and that the Blind should have an opportunity of earning a decent livelihood for themselves.

He felt that before it is possible to eliminate the blind beggar from our midst, an alternative should be given him, and that should be something above the Poor Law system.

Mr. J. M. Ritchie, Secretary of the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind, endorsed the observation already made by Miss Garaway that the teachers regret that the powers of the Education Committees have not been made compulsory. He suggested that those on the Advisory Committee should possess inside knowledge, general culture, and a wide outlook, and be able to raise themselves above the narrowing influence of being an expert. The Committee should have a wide administrative policy, and the power of rising above the personal element.

He regretted that the Departmental Committee did not include a recommendation to the Local Authorities that they should provide additional accommodation for the workshops, which is so urgently needed.

Miss E. W. Austin, Secretary of the National Library for the Blind, expressed admiration of the Report and of the work put into it. It would be a book of reference for the new workers who would come into this little blind world.

One or two suggestions tendered most respectfully have been made about the formation of the new Advisory Committee, and she supported the speaker who said that such a Committee should not be too large.

She was pleased to know that the Advisory Committee was to be nominated by the Government. It might be well, however, to form a representative body to which that Advisory Committee could appeal if necessary, viz., the suggestion that

has been made more than once, that an Association of Workers for the Blind should be formed. After this meeting is concluded there may be an opportunity to start such a body.

After the discussion the Resolution was submitted to the meeting, and was carried unanimously.

Votes of thanks were passed to Mr. Wilson for taking the chair, and to the National Library for the loan of the premises to hold the meeting.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND AND SCHOOLS FOR THE PARTIALLY BLIND.

By Mr. B. P. Jones, Superintendent of the L.C.C. Schools
for the Blind.

For many years the education of the Blind was left to the efforts of a benevolent public, and it was not until the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act of 1893 that it became imperative upon School Authorities to make provision.

Though the Education Act of 1870 provided for the normal child only, it did not exclude the blind child from participation in its benefits. It was due to this that the late London School Board was able to try an experiment in 1879 to educate the Blind. Two blind teachers were engaged—the late Miss Scott and Miss Weaver—to visit the ordinary schools, in order to teach Braille, Moon Type, and Arithmetic to the few blind children present; the other subjects were taken in the ordinary classes.

It was difficult to secure the attendance of blind children, because the parents were somewhat averse to the innovation, and it was mainly due to the efforts of the blind teachers that the parents permitted them to attend. A visit or two from the teachers secured the quick sympathy of the parents, seeing that they, too, were blind. As the teaching became more widely known the number of children increased, and two more teachers were employed—Miss Delph and Miss Butler. Here it may be noted that these teachers are still in the service, and it is beyond

doubt that, due to their monumental service in those trying days, the foundation of the education of the London Blind was so well begun.

Generally the teachers in the ordinary schools were sympathetic and helpful, and the experiment of mixing the Blind with the normal children proved that a healthy spirit existed between them. It created a competitive spirit in the Blind, and produced a sympathetic attitude in the normal.

The system generally proved difficult, and this led to the formation of centres to which the blind children were gathered from a certain district so as to have the advantage of a fuller curriculum under the blind teachers. These centres were attached to or near to the ordinary school where the Blind still attended for certain subjects.

The impetus of the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act of 1893 brought additional children under the educational net, and more centres were opened and more teachers engaged. The supervision generally was under the direction of Miss Green until 1901, when she retired to enjoy a well-deserved rest. She was indefatigable in her work, kind and sympathetic, and the blind teachers and children of London owe her much.

During these early days the teachers not only taught, but in many ways helped to secure clothes and food for the poor children. The Referee Fund and the Ragged School Union came to the rescue on many occasions.

In 1901 a comprehensive scheme for improvements was adopted by the Board. It aimed at better accommodation, equipment, classification, physical training, separation of girls and boys over thirteen years of age, and more intense manual training, and it is this scheme which is at present in course.

GENERAL ORGANIZATION:—The children are admitted to the schools after they have been certified by the Medical Officer as fit cases either for a school for the Blind or a school for the Partially Blind (Myopic). They are admitted between five and sixteen years of age—before five—if they live near a school. Guides are provided to conduct the children to and from school.

Those who are beyond walking distance either ride in train, tram, or bus—the expense being borne by the Authority when necessary.

Dinners are provided at the schools and served in the halls. The dining arrangements are supervised by women helpers, and the teachers take a kindly interest in the discipline and manners. Parents pay what they can afford for the dinners, others obtain them free. The schools are visited periodically by the district doctor, ophthalmologist, and the dentist. A nurse also visits when required. Treatment is carried out when necessary.

There are six day schools in different parts of London with accommodation for 225 children. The buildings are generally for two or four classes, with halls, teachers' rooms, etc., and are placed near the ordinary school, so that the children may use the extensive playgrounds.

The instruction follows a prescribed curriculum approved by the Board of Education.

The children are transferred when they are about thirteen years of age either to Linden Lodge (boys) or Elm Court (girls) schools where there is accommodation for thirty resident and ten day scholars, and forty residents and thirty-seven day scholars respectively.

The staff in the day schools consists of fifteen teachers, six of whom are blind and two partially blind. There is sighted help provided for the blind teachers. All the teachers are certificated, and the scale of salary is the same as that of the ordinary teachers, plus £10 a year. There is no distinction made between the blind and other teachers. The blind teachers have been trained at the Royal Normal College, and it was due to the assistance rendered by Gardners' Trust for the Blind that they were enabled to undergo the training.

Children whose homes are undesirable are boarded out near one of the schools. The general supervision of the boarding out arrangements is under the direction of Miss R. F. Petty, Inspector of Homes of Children Boarded Out.

Children whose health is delicate and who are recommended by the Medical Officer for a country school are sent to

such Institutions as those at Brighton, Southsea, Gorleston, Exeter, Bristol, etc.

Children who show special aptitude for music or promise to be above the average in scholarship are afforded the opportunity of entering the Royal Normal College.

The Council award eight scholarships yearly, beside the Gardner Trust Scholarships, and these are tenable at such schools as Elm Court, Royal Normal College, Leatherhead, and Swiss Cottage.

Apart from the school libraries the children are provided with books from the National Library. There is a great need for more books, not only in quantity, but in variety, and it is hoped that the National Institute for the Blind will, in the near future, be able to cope with the demand.

There is an After-Care-Association which finds employment and helps the children otherwise when they complete their training. It is a voluntary Association, and its usefulness is maintained by donations and subscriptions. Miss Ingram is the Secretary, and the office is at 2 and 4, Old Queen Street, Prince's Street, S.W. 1.

The After-Care records bear testimony to the value of the training given, but through lack of sufficient workshop accommodation the best use of the training has not been made possible in some instances.

LINDEN LODGE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL FOR ELDER BLIND BOYS.—The school was opened in December, 1902. It is certified for thirty resident and ten day pupils. It adjoins Wandsworth Common, and there is a large garden and playground at the rear of the house. The educational staff consists of a lady superintendent, two class teachers, and two manual instructors.

The boys are admitted at about thirteen years of age, and remain until they are sixteen. The usual school subjects are taught, and the manual instruction includes wood-work, bent iron-work, basket-work, mat-making, and chair-caning. There is a commodious gymnasium, and a visiting instructor is responsible for apparatus work.

The boys take active interest in football and other games,

and a portion of the garden is at their disposal for cultivation of flowers, etc.

When the boys leave, the majority proceed for further training to the Royal Normal College, Leatherhead, and Swiss Cottage, either through the award of a scholarship or payment from other sources.

There is an Old Boys' Club attached to the school, and the annual re-union is a source of great delight, and a means of keeping in touch with them.

ELM COURT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL FOR ELDER BLIND GIRLS.—This school was opened in June, 1902. It is certified for forty resident and thirty-seven day scholars. It is situated in Court Road, West Norwood, S.E. There are two Homes—Elm Court and Glenelg—with accommodation for twenty girls in each. Both Homes are surrounded by spacious grounds and gardens.

The staff consists of a Head Mistress, three class teachers (blind), two manual instructresses, and a Matron. There is a visiting teacher to undertake instruction in gymnastics. The usual school subjects are taken, and hand-work includes needle-work, plain and fancy basket work, chair-caning, hand and machine knitting (round and flat). The school has lately been certified for training for girls over sixteen years of age, and those girls who secure a scholarship, or are otherwise provided for, remain until they are fully equipped to enter a workshop. A separate curriculum is arranged for these girls.

A special feature has been made of the flat-machine knitting industry, and a workshop has lately been established in the centre of London where the girls proceed when capable. The activities of this new workshop are exceptional, and the outlook for Elm Court girls is most promising, not only from the enjoyment of an industrious life, but as an opportunity for earning a living wage. The workshop is managed by a Committee of enthusiastic ladies with the assistance of Miss Rothwell as a practical adviser.

SCHOOLS FOR THE PARTIALLY BLIND CHILDREN (MYOPIC).—It was found that many parents objected to their partially blind children being sent to schools for the Blind, and there was good reason for this reluctance. It not only brought them up educationally as blind, but they usually followed trades suitable for the Blind after school life.

In order to meet the difficulty, the Council decided to

establish a class for these children as an experiment, and it was opened at Boundary Lane School in March, 1909.

It being a new departure, many difficulties had to be overcome both as to method of instruction and equipment. It was an agreed principle that these children were to attend the ordinary school for *Oral* subjects, and their own for subjects suitable for their particular need.

The experiment proved a great success, and this was mainly due to the efforts of Miss Holmes and Mrs. Buckley who might be looked upon as the pioneers of this work in the country. It should be noted here that without the kindly co-operation of the teachers in the ordinary schools the same success could not have been achieved. The class was closed in 1915, and the children transferred to Sayer Street and Lawn Lane new schools. In 1912 two more schools were opened—in 1915 five more, and in 1917 six. There is now accommodation for about 450 children with a staff of twenty teachers.

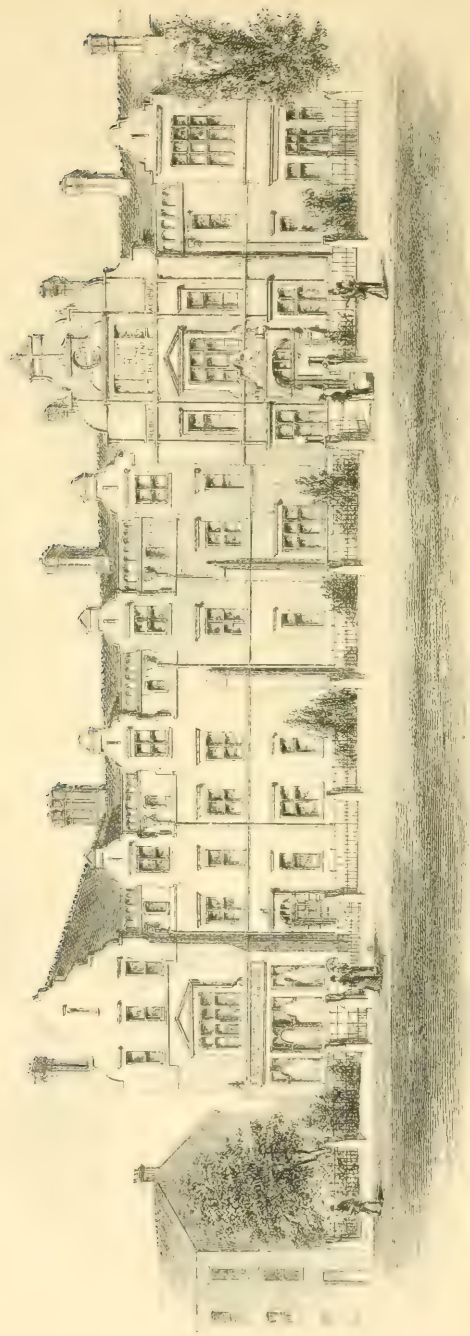
The children leave school when fourteen, and after they have been certified by the Medical Officer. They usually enter occupations which are not likely to injure their sight. The After School Records of these children are promising, and the value of the training given is not only valued by the children, but the parents are proud of what has been done for them. They improve very much educationally, and the sight has not only been saved, but in many cases improved. Truly, the schools have been well termed "Sight Saving Schools."

It has not been possible to secure teachers with experience for the work, but lectures have been given by Dr. Bishop Harman on the medical aspect, and by Mrs. Everett on the practical work.

It is interesting to find how the teachers have devised appliances and introduced new methods of teaching in these schools, and "necessity is the mother of invention" has seldom been more aptly applied.

It may be of interest to close this article by quoting the evidence of Dr. Eichholz, H.M. Inspector, before the Departmental Committee as to the results of the work in the Council's schools. In answer to a question he states: "I say emphatically, so far from having faults to find, that we are proud of the work done in our schools and the pitch to which we have raised them educationally, and I should like to say that there are no schools, we have reason to be more proud of than the schools of the L.C.C."





NORWICH INSTITUTION FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1805.

REBUILT A.D. 1889.

The Blind.

VOL. V.

No. 83.

JULY 20TH, 1918.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, and copies of the Paper, price 3d. each, or 4d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

ETHEL WINIFRED AUSTIN.

I. Little reason was there to think when our last number was issued that the next would contain a record of the departure from among us of a remarkable personality, an untiring and unsurpassed worker for the Blind, and to very many of us a well known and highly valued friend. The notice of her sudden death, which appeared in *The Times* of May 18th, must have been read by many with a great shock and much sorrow, especially by those who, like the editor of this Magazine, had met Miss Austin only a few days previously, then apparently in her usual health and buoyancy of spirits, and full of her intended visit to Derbyshire during her Whitsuntide holiday. Alas! in time that could almost be reckoned in hours after that interview, her life on earth had ended, and on Whit Tuesday she was laid to rest in Ladywell Cemetery.

Miss Austin was very well known in the "blind" world, chiefly by her most successful organization of the National Library, to which she devoted very many years of her life. We have known, and been in close touch with, the Library from its inception in 1882, and have been a witness of the steady growth and expansion under Miss Austin's intelligent and assiduous care since June, 1906, when she was appointed Secretary.

of Bovey Tracey, is associated with excellent, quiet, undaunted efforts for the welfare of the Blind, more especially those living in Torquay and South Devon. About thirty-six years ago she became a member of the Ladies Committee of the Institute for the Blind at Exeter. She was the first to introduce Braille in Exeter and the neighbourhood. One of the present staff of the Institution received his first lesson from her thirty years ago. Miss Karslake possessed in a marked way the power of inspiring others with her own enthusiasm. Many were encouraged by her steady perseverance in face of many difficulties and discouragements. She was the pioneer of the Home Teaching Societies in Devonshire, the Exeter Society being founded in 1903. In later years, since she left Exeter for Bovey Tracey, her chief work has been in connection with the Home Teaching Society, which has its headquarters at Torquay. For several years she was its President. Its prosperity has been largely owing to her. With a deep sympathy for the Blind, she combined a wise judgment in helping them. Her advice was always greatly valued.

3. The Cheltenham and Gloucestershire Society for the Blind has sustained a very serious loss in the death of Captain Willoughby J. Berthon, which took place on the 22nd of April last. He had been out of health for some time, and unable to do much work. He had been Hon. Treasurer and Trade Manager at the Workshop for over twenty-four years, and during that time had greatly increased the trade. He was always ready to help the Blind, in whom he took a special interest, and did all he could to benefit the Institution. He gave such a large amount of his time to the Institution for the Blind that it will be very difficult to find a worthy successor. He also took an active interest in many other local charities.

4. We regret to announce the death of Mr. J. T. Edmonds on the 23rd February last after a brief illness of only four days. He was the devoted Hon. Secretary to the South London

Association for Assisting the Blind for forty-eight years, and during that time gave of his time and energy with unremitting zeal. His loss is most keenly felt by the blind poor, to whom he endeared himself by his Christian kindness, geniality, and integrity. The fragrance of his memory will ever live in the hearts of those who knew and loved him, and his place will, indeed, be hard to fill.

5. We offer our hearty congratulations to Sir A. W. G. Ranger, D.C.L., on the honour of Knighthood recently conferred on him by the King. Dr. Ranger has taken a leading part in the revision of Braille, and is a Governor, Trustee, and Hon. Secretary of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, where he was a student. From there he passed to Worcester College, Oxford, and took a First Class in Jurisprudence, and was *proxime accessit* for the Vinerian Scholarship. He is a member of the Committee of St. Dunstan's Hostel for blinded soldiers and sailors, Chairman of the National Institute for the Blind, Fellow and Hon. Solicitor of the College of Teachers of the Blind, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association of Teachers of the Blind, and Hon. Solicitor to the Metropolitan Union of Societies for the Blind.

6. We also tender hearty congratulations to Lt.-Col. T. R. Jolly, V.D., of Preston, on having the honour of Member of the British Empire conferred on him by the King, for services in connection with the war. Col. Jolly is Principal of the Harris Institute and Orphanage at Preston, and also Secretary of the Preston Institution for the Blind. At the beginning of the war he was appointed officer in command of the National Reserve, in which capacity he enlisted over 3,000 men who are now attached to the Royal Defence Corps. When the group system was instituted he was appointed military representative for the whole of the Preston area, and recently he was chosen as the official in charge of the whole twenty-five tribunals in the Preston area.

7. Can any of our readers kindly spare us a copy of *The Blind* for last January, No 81. The copy sent to one of our subscribers in the United States of America has not been delivered, and she is most anxious to have the number, as it is the only one missing from her copies of *The Blind* from the first issue. Our copies for that month have all been exhausted for some time, and we would be very grateful for two or three. Also for copies of the last April number, No. 82, which is likewise out of print.

8. The President of the Local Government Board has appointed Miss M. M. R. Garaway as a member of the Advisory Committee in the room of the late Miss Austin. We heartily congratulate her on her appointment. Miss Garaway is well known as the Lady Resident Superintendent of the Linden Lodge London County Council School for blind boys. She is a Fellow of the College of Teachers of the Blind, and has been one of the Examiners for the College on several occasions, and has been Chairman of the Committee of the Association of Teachers of the Blind.

9. In the Cambridge Tripos Lists of last month Mr. W. A. Fooks's name appears in the Law Tripos, Part ii., Class ii. He thus takes his B.A. and LL.B. Degrees. He was actually at the head of the list of candidates for this Part, as there was no one in the first class, and no one else in the second. The result reflects great credit on Mr. Fooks, and completes most satisfactorily his career at the University. He expects to be articled almost at once to a firm of solicitors. Mr. Fooks was educated at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, and from there he passed to Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he held a Gardner Trust Scholarship.

10. Mr. Harold F. Lakeman, formerly of the Royal Normal College for the Blind at Upper Norwood, and of New College, Oxford, has taken his Degree. Mr. Lakeman held a

Gardner Trust Scholarship at Oxford, and also the Fawcett Memorial Scholarship. Mr. MacInness, of Balliol College, Oxford, has also taken his Degree. The Honour list had not appeared before going to press, but it is hoped that both men will obtain Honours in Modern History.

11. Mr. Harold Freear, to whom we referred in the number for last October, paragraph 4, has joined the staff of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester; and an excellent Chemistry and Physics laboratory has been set up at the College. Complete apparatus for advanced mechanics and sound is being installed, and also for elementary electricity and magnetism, and for experimental chemistry.

A handsome Challenge Cup has been presented by Mr. G. F. Mowatt to celebrate his election as a Governor of the College, for the annual Old Boy's College boat race. The names of the winners since 1914 have been inscribed, and the cup now stands on a bracket in the dining hall. A reversible brass tablet, with "College" inscribed on one side, and "Old Boys" on the other, hangs in front of the bracket, to show the present holders. Mr. Mowatt has also presented a cup to be contested for by chess players.

12. The Rev. W. E. Lloyd is now in entire charge of a London parish, as his vicar has gone to the front.

13. Mr. L. W. Passmore is now carrying on business as a Solicitor at Tunbridge Wells, and also at Tonbridge quite alone, as his partner has been called up for National Service.

14. On the 18th of April last Mr. Hugh E. Walford was presented with a cheque for £165 subscribed for by many of the townspeople of Reading to commemorate the completion of the twenty-fifth year of the Reading Blind Aid Society. The money will be invested in 5½ National War Bonds, the income thereon forming a special annual pension to be called The Hugh E.

Walford Pension. Mr. Walford founded the Society, and has been its indefatigable Hon. Secretary and Treasurer since its inception. He has worked untiringly on behalf of the local Blind, and has raised over £3,800 as an Endowment Fund, of which the income is expended in granting them pensions. There is not a single blind beggar in the streets of Reading, which has a population of 95,000. The report of the Society for the year ended January 31st last shows the satisfactory work being done amongst the local Blind.

15. The Committee of the National Library for the Blind have appointed Miss O. Prince, Acting Secretary and Librarian for the time being, and all correspondence in connection with the Library should be addressed to her until further notice. Miss Prince was a great personal friend of the late Miss Austin, and served under her, as Assistant Secretary, for several years.

16. The marriage took place at Trotton Church, Petersfield, on June 4th, of the Rev. T. W. L. Caspersz, Chaplain, Royal Navy, the Barracks, Portsmouth, and Miss Dorothy Strong Forster, only daughter of the late Rev. Samuel Strong Forster, who was Headmaster of the College for the Blind, Worcester, and of Mrs. Strong Forster, of Trotton Hill, and formerly of Malvern.

The bride was given away by her mother.

17. A schoolmaster and supervision officer is required for a Technical Institution for blind pupils over sixteen years of age. Applications should be made, stating qualifications and salary required, to the Secretary, Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Chaucer Street, Nottingham.

18. The following books in Braille have been added to the free public library, Oxford:—Butler's sermons; the Constitution of the United States; Maitland's Introduction to Gierke's "State in the Middle Ages"; Mill's "On Representative

Government; Mill's "Principles of Political Economy"; Sidgwick's "Elements of Politics," part 1; Thucydides, Book 5; Ford's "Love's Sacrifice" and "The Broken Heart."

19. A meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held on June 15th at 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, when there were present Miss Garaway, Messrs. G. Campbell, W. H. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, A. P. Pearson, J. M. Ritchie, H. Stainsby, W. H. Thurman, and H. J. Wilson in the chair.

Letters regretting their inability to be present were read from the Rev. St. Clare Hill, Messrs. T. H. Martin, H. W. P. Pine, W. M. Stone, and W. E. Taylor.

The report of the Examiners was read and accepted, and considered very satisfactory.

On the motion of Mr. Illingworth, seconded by Mr. Pearson, it was unanimously resolved "That a cordial vote of thanks be passed to the Council and Staff of the School for the Blind, Swiss Cottage, for the admirable arrangements made for the conduct of the examinations."

The Examiners having recommended the compilation of a new pamphlet on the use of the Taylor frame, a Sub-Committee consisting of Miss Falconer, Messrs. Pearson, Stainsby, and Stone were appointed to bring the present system up to date, to enquire further into any new system, and to report to the Committee.

On the motion of Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Thurman, it was resolved to discontinue the office of Moderator.

A Sub-Committee, consisting of Messrs. Campbell, Illingworth, Stainsby, Stone, and Thurman were appointed to consider "what means, if any, can be taken to secure greater educational efficiency in the work of Trade Instructors in Schools for the Blind."

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the five retiring Examiners, viz., Miss J. I. Falconer, Messrs. P. Gray, A. P. Pearson, J. M. Ritchie, and W. M. Stone, who were unanimously re-elected Examiners for 1919.

20. The annual examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held for the third year in succession on May 14th and 15th at the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind, London, N.W. 3, by kind permission of the Council of the School. The College is very grateful to the Council for allowing the examination to be held there again, and is much indebted to Mr. Ritchie for the excellent arrangements. The following is a list of those who took their certificates, and the respective honours obtained:—

Anderson, Mary Grace—Practical Braille, Braille Music.

Barker, Mary W.—Machine Knitting.

Clark, Isabella Jane—Practice of Teaching, Hand Knitting, Infant Teaching.

Crabb, Winifred—Theoretical Braille.

Davies, Marjorie—Arithmetic, Hand Knitting.

Finch-Kite, Mrs. Violet—Infant Teaching.

Goulden, Dorothy E.—Theoretical Braille.

Hall, Mary—Theoretical Braille, Practice of Teaching.

Mahoney, Mary Lois.

Peebles, Edith—Hand Knitting.

Richardson, Elsie—Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching, Theory of Education, Infant Teaching.

Simpson Helen, C. A.—Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching, Theory of Education, Infant Teaching.

Varley, Doris Kirkland—Arithmetic, Typewriting.

Winfield, Edith A. E.—Practical Braille, Practice of Teaching, Theory of Education.

Wing, Marjorie—Arithmetic, Hand Knitting.

21. The Examination of Candidates for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College, are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates who must have reached the age of sixteen and be resident in England or Wales, should apply for forms of application and return them

not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19.

22. Miss Winifred Holt has received from the French Government the Médaille d'Or du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères for her work for the Blind soldiers of the Phare de France. Miss Holt organized the Lighthouse, which furnishes a home and a school for the re-education of the Blind under the American Committee for the men blinded in battle.

In presenting the medal, General Février, in the name of the President of the Republic and representing the Government, thanked Miss Holt, and expressed, in the name of France, the highest appreciation of the work accomplished at the Phare and for her devotion to the men blinded in battle since 1915. Miss Holt replied in French, thanking General Février and the Government in her own name and in that of the Committee.

The presentation was made in the presence of the American Ambassador and others.

There are three Lighthouses in France, viz., (a) the annexe at Sèvres, opened January 13th, 1918, at the ancient chateau of the Marquise de Pompadour, (b) the Filiale at Bordeaux, and (c) the Choate War Memorial Lighthouse at 14, Rue Daru, Paris. Eleven blinded men are employed by the French Government in its factory at Sèvres.

23. The Château de Madrid, in the Bois de Boulogne, for many years one of the best and finest restaurants of Paris, has, through the generosity of M. Jacques Seligmann, been placed at the service of the blinded soldiers of the Allied forces.

The house has 160 rooms and extensive gardens surrounding it, and has been rented for three years at £3,000 a year, which M. Seligmann generously guarantees.

A condition was made that the blinded American soldiers should also be cared for at the Château de Madrid.

24. The voting by members of the Association of Workers for the Blind for the Executive Committee of fifteen has resulted as follows:—Miss Austin (the late), Mr. Evans, Miss Garaway, Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, Stuart Johnson, A. P. Pearson, Sir A. Pearson, Bart., Mr. Priestley, Sir W. Ranger, Messrs. Ritchie, Siddall, Stainsby, Stone, Thurman, and H. J. Wilson. Three, who were elected, have declined to serve. There are about 250 members. The first meeting of the Executive Committee took place on the 4th July, when after having passed a vote of condolence with the relations of the late Miss Austin, who was the prime mover in the formation of the Association, it was decided to take no action at present in regard to the election of a Chairman. On the motion of Mr. Stainsby, seconded by Mr. Evans, it was resolved unanimously that Miss Garaway and Mr. Ritchie be appointed joint Hon. Secretaries, and all communications should be addressed to the former at Linden Lodge, 26, Bolingbroke Grove, Wandsworth Common, S.W. Mr. Ritchie was appointed Hon. Treasurer. The Secretaries were requested to draft a constitution for the consideration of the Committee at their next meeting.

25. It is with much regret that on going to press we hear that Mr. Pine, owing to continued ill-health, has been obliged to resign his post as Secretary and Manager of the Midland Royal Institution for the Blind at Nottingham, which he has held for thirty-six years and a-half. Mr. W. H. Bennett has been appointed Trades Manager, and is to take charge of the Institution for the present.

26. We have just heard with much regret of the death from nervous breakdown of Mr. A. W. Hendry, the well-known manager of the Royal Institution for the Blind, North Adelaide. He had been associated with the Institution ever since its inception, and passed away on April 26th.

27. We Englishmen have such a reputation for muddling through everything and for being just too late in our efforts, that

it is refreshing to be able to refer to something that has been carried through with thoroughness and promptitude. We refer to the formation of the Advisory Committee under the Local Government Board. We think that a short record of its history should be stated here.

On March 11th, 1914, Mr. Wardle, member for Stockport, made his memorable speech in the House of Commons, when the Government promised to make an enquiry into the condition of the Blind in the United Kingdom, and on May 7th of that year, Mr. Samuel, then President of the Local Government Board, appointed a Departmental Committee, which met on June 11th, after one or two preliminary meetings, to examine witnesses; and notwithstanding a short break in their proceedings owing to the war, published their Report in July last.

The exhaustive nature of the enquiries is shown by the fact that fifty-three witnesses were examined, and 12,834 questions put and answered. After the publication of the Report no time was lost by Mr. Hayes Fisher, the present President of the Local Government Board, who is keenly and sympathetically interested in the question, as on October 18th he sent a *résumé* of the Report to the War Council, and appeared before them on November 8th, when they authorised the setting up of a Department for the Blind at the Local Government Board, and sanctioned the necessary administrative expenses, and the setting up of an Advisory Committee.

The names of that Committee were announced on December 7th; they held their first meeting on December 13th, and are now hard at work carrying out the recommendations in the Report, and preparing schemes of such a reasonable and practical nature as to make them acceptable to the Treasury and the Government. The Committee are particularly fortunate in having such a strong Chairman as Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board, and such an excellent Secretary as Mr. E. D. Macgregor, also of the L.G.B., who has grasped the complexities of the work in a remarkably short time.

The Blind owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Wardle for the part he took in causing a Departmental Committee to be formed, and also to Mr. Hayes Fisher for his able conduct as Chairman of that Committee, and for his zeal and promptness in seeing that the Report should receive immediate attention, with the result that a Committee is now proceeding to carry out ideas ventilated in Parliament only four years ago.

The recommendations in the Report have been welcomed wholeheartedly not only at the large meetings of representatives of the Blind held on October 20th at the National Library for the Blind, and on December 7th at the National Institute for the Blind, when resolutions were passed unanimously approving the recommendations, but also at meetings held by local authorities throughout the country.

At the first mentioned meeting Mr. Wardle made the following pertinent remarks:—"If there ever was a Departmental Committee, if there ever was a Report, and if there was in the House of Commons a discussion, it is due to the fact that there has been in this country, and are still to-day, a large number of voluntary workers, of people who with their hearts and heads have devoted themselves to the task of working for the Blind."

A central authority has now been set up by the creation of a special Department for the Blind at the Local Government Board with an Advisory Committee. The care of the Blind has thus been brought within the sphere of practical politics, and a new era is opening for them.

As to the Report itself, we will not attempt to deal with it, but it should be read by everybody interested in the Blind. It is well, however, to refer to the new definition of blindness, *i.e.*, "too blind to perform work for which eyesight is essential." We are indebted for this definition to a special Sub-Committee of the ophthalmological section of the Royal Society of Medicine, which sat at the request of the Departmental Committee to consider that most difficult question.

The Advisory Committee have met eleven times, and have

generally approved several schemes. The Local Contributions Sub-Committee have met ten times, the Registration Sub-Committee seven times, the Prevention of Blindness Sub-Committee three times, and the Education Sub-Committee twice.

The subjects under consideration are so numerous and so far reaching, and the difficulties so many and so great, that some time is necessary before the public can know the result of the present efforts of the Committee. Problems which have been for many years perplexing those interested in the Blind cannot possibly be solved at once, and require much careful consideration.

28. The Lady Algernon Percy, Guy's Cliffe, Warwick, has for many years taken a deep interest in the Deaf-Blind, and has invented a Morse Code in order to communicate with persons thus handicapped. The leaflet on the subject which is issued says:—"The simplest means of communication with persons afflicted with Deaf-Blindness (either temporarily or permanently) is by means of the Morse Code. This Code is familiar to most soldiers and sailors.

Those who are not acquainted with Morse can be taught by the use of large separate alphabetical blocks, each shaped like a letter and bearing in one corner its raised equivalent in Morse. Conversations with the outside world can be held by means of a simple mechanical apparatus. One person can control a number of small hammers which tap out the words (in Morse Code) on the hands of the persons addressed.

This method has proved a great alleviation to Deaf-Blind girls and men; and it is hoped that it may also be of service to our wounded men, who are cut off in a similar way from communication with their surroundings.

It must of course be clearly understood that this Morse Code method is in no way intended to supplant or compete with, the Braille system. The latter has been most ingeniously elaborated and perfected, and provides an extensive literature

and a means of correspondence for the Blind. The value of the Morse Code method lies in the ready means which it affords for opening up communication with soldiers and sailors stricken blind and deaf, and thus rendered incapable of receiving impressions from outside, or of ascertaining their surroundings, save by the sense of touch (for taste and smell are of less avail). In such cases the Morse Code obviously affords a simple and ready means of penetrating into minds which are isolated and plunged into dense black silence, provided always, that the patients are already acquainted with the Morse Code (as many Service men are). If they do not know the Code, then in the block alphabet they have a simple and inexpensive apparatus for learning it."

Lord Algernon Percy has written us that Lady Algernon has recently received a letter from a Nun in a Convent at Larnay, Poitiers, where Marie and her sister Marthe Huertin, both born deaf-blind, have been brought up. Lady Algernon was teaching Marie Huertin, by correspondence through the Nun, for nearly a year before the Conference in 1914, in addition to five other girls in England.

The Nun wrote in French as follows :—" Marie and Marthe know the Morse alphabet perfectly and amuse themselves by teaching it to their companions, and to talk with them helped by the new language. Strangers who know the alphabet are also able to speak to the Deaf-Blind by it. Your invention will be very useful to the Deaf-Blind of the war, and will render them immense service.

Our young girls are happy to learn the Morse alphabet, and talk spontaneously with the people to whom the alphabet is known."

Full details as to the alphabetical blocks and speaking apparatus will be gladly given by the Lady Algernon Percy.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

Northern Counties Union. The meeting of the Executive Committee of this Union was held on the 26th June last at the Town Hall, Burnley, when Mr. John Booth, of Preston, Chairman of the Union, presided. After Miss Winifred Bramhall, the Organising Secretary, had made her report, the Chairman addressed the meeting, and referred to the Report of the Departmental Committee, and said that in carrying out successfully its recommendations a great deal depended on local effort and enthusiasm, and that there could be no finer or better work than brightening the lives of the Blind. Mr. Priestley then gave an address in reference to a letter which had been sent by the Secretary of the Advisory Committee to each of the Unions asking for their comments thereon. Mr. Priestley gave in detail a suggested scheme for breaking up the Northern Counties into eleven districts and appointing local Advisory Committees.

Metropolitan Union. A special meeting of the Committee of this Union was held at 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, on June 8th, to consider a letter from the Secretary of the Advisory Committee on the welfare of the Blind in regard to a proposal to divide England and Wales into several areas for the welfare of the Blind, and set up Sub-Committees in each of the proposed areas to advise how best the various activities undertaken on behalf of the Blind could best be co-ordinated. Observations on the proposed scheme were asked for from the Committee of the Union, and certain suggestions were made.

Midland Counties Union. A meeting was held on July 1st in Birmingham, when Mr. A. L. Lowe, the Chairman of the Union, presided. The letter of May 8th from the Secretary of the Advisory Committee was carefully considered, and several resolutions were passed in reference thereto. The suggestions

for dividing the Union area into districts was approved, but certain modifications were proposed in regard to the scheme. Mrs. Thurman has been appointed Hon. Organising Secretary of this Union in the place of Miss Judith Merivale, who has resigned.

Western Counties Union. A meeting of the Committee was held at the West of England Institution for the Blind, Exeter, on April 26th, Mr. F. Richardson Cross in the chair. The death of two valued members of the Committee was reported—Miss Karslake, of Bovey Tracey, and Captain Berthon, of Cheltenham. Their long persevering work for the Blind was spoken of in terms of thankful appreciation. The Honorary Secretary was requested to send letters of sympathy to their friends, and also to the friends of Major Metcalfe, Vice-Chairman, who has been wounded.

NORWICH ASYLUM AND SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND.

By Mr. J. B. Clements, F.I.S.A., Superintendent and Secretary.

Norwich possesses many monuments of which its citizens are justly proud. There are few agencies in our midst however, in which people are entitled to feel more pride than the Institution known as the "Asylum and School for the Indigent Blind," which is situated in Magdalen Street.

The actual establishment of the Asylum took place on January 17th, 1805, and how it came into being may here be told. At that time there lived in Norwich a Mr. Thomas Tawell, a wealthy iron merchant. Mr. Tawell had himself been blind, but had partially regained his sight, his misfortune bringing home to him the greater misery of the poor who might be sightless.

With that generosity for which Norwich citizens have been famed in all ages, Mr. Tawell felt that something ought to be done for the Blind.

He purchased a mansion belonging to Lord Bradford in Magdalen Street, there being four acres of gardens attached, and offered the house and grounds as the basis for making a local Institution for the Indigent Blind of Norwich. He issued an address, showing how desirable such an Institution was, offering the premises with the sum of 1,000 guineas, all of which was subsequently made over.

Subsequently a meeting was held at the Guildhall on the 17th of January, 1805. Mr. James Marsh, Mayor of Norwich, was in the Chair, supported by many prominent citizens. It was stated that a sum of £1,000 would be required for the establishment, and a further sum of £700 annually for the support of such an Institution, whereupon a resolution was passed that Mr. Tawell's liberal and munificent offer should be accepted, and an appeal for subscriptions issued in a booklet setting forth the claims of the Blind on the public.

At a second meeting held on the 25th of April it was decided that sufficient encouragement had been given to justify the commencement of the undertaking. The following resolution was unanimously agreed to :—"That the proposed Institution be immediately carried into effect for as great a number of blind persons as the subscriptions already made will permit." It was also decided that the number of young people to be admitted as pupils to the school was not to bear a greater proportion than two to one to the number of aged persons admitted to the Hospital.

The Lord Bishop of Norwich was elected as first President, the Mayor, Mr. Robert Fellowes, M.P., and Mr. Richard Miles being Vice-Presidents, with Mr. John Greene Baseley, Treasurer, Messrs. J. Ives, R. Harvey, Jun., T. Kett, and T. Cubitt were appointed Trustees.

The names of the original Committee may also be given, viz. :—

Rev. Dr. Pretzman,	Mr. John Herring,
Mr. Thomas Tawell,	Mr. Robert Herring,
Mr. John Gurney,	Rev. Charles Sutton,
Mr. Robert Partridge,	Mr. Elisha De Hague,
Rev. R. C. Long,	Rev. Charles J. Chapman,
Rev. Robert Parr,	Mr. William Foster, Jun.
Mr. Joseph Gurney,	Mr. Edward Booth,
Rev. John Humphrey,	Mr. John W. Robberds,

“ who shall be responsible for the management of the Institution.”

The Institution had three objects in view—(1) The education and industrial training of the juvenile blind. (2) To provide employment for adult blind persons. (3) To provide a home for the aged blind.

Hitherto, the benefits of this Institution were limited to the City of Norwich and the County of Norfolk; but at a General Meeting held on the 17th of May, 1808, a letter from Mr. Henshaw, of Oldham, Lancashire, was read, offering £525 to the Institution, provided its advantages were thrown open to the kingdom at large, whereupon it was unanimously resolved to open the Institution in accordance with Mr. Henshaw's wish.

The first trades taught were mat-making, basket-making for the males, and knitting of every description for the females.

In 1820 the Institution sustained a great loss through the death of Mr. Thomas Tawell, its founder. To the time of his death he had taken a personal interest in the work of the Blind, acting as Chairman for some years, and at the time of his death being a Vice-President.

In March, 1837, it was decided to purchase a number of books written upon the plan of Mr. Alston, for the use of the Blind. In April of the same year Mr. Alston came to Norwich and conferred with the Committee on various subjects. He again visited Norwich in April, 1839, and addressed a meeting of subscribers and donors.

In 1841 the number of inmates having increased from 14 to 49, 15 aged persons and 34 pupils, it was found necessary to

enlarge the premises to enable the Committee to cope with the steadily increasing demand for the goods manufactured in the Institution. A building was erected at the cost of £250 15s. od., which was used as a weaving shop.

In 1843 Mr. Frere spent some time in Norwich for the sole purpose of teaching his particular method of giving instruction to the Blind. At a meeting held in July, 1843, the Committee desired that "their cordial thanks be given to James Hatley Frere, Esq., for his benevolent offer to teach the inmates of this Institution his system of reading and for his unwearied personal exertion in their instruction." Good progress was made about this time in reading, singing, etc., the Committee having had the good fortune to procure excellent teachers. In March, 1845, a special appeal was made for more subscriptions to enable the Institution more fully to carry out its objects. It was also resolved to reduce the age of admission from 12 to 10 years, and to keep them for 5 years if necessary.

Until 1887 nothing worthy of note occurred, the progress being uniform and exceptionally gratifying to those upon whose shoulders the real work fell, when, at the meeting of the General Board held on 2nd December, it was decided to reconstruct the buildings.

This was completed, and the new buildings occupied on June 14th, 1890. The Committee of Management record the fact with much thankfulness and indulge the confident expectation that the completion of the new buildings will be found to mark the opening of a fresh career of usefulness, and a large expansion of the benefit conferred by the Charity upon the Indigent Blind. The sum spent upon the reconstruction was £5,320 6s. 9d., of which amount £2,500 was bequeathed by the late Miss Weston, and the remainder was provided by special subscriptions.

There was still a great deal to be done in laying out the grounds, which were for the first time opened to the use and enjoyment of the inmates.

About this time the Committee effected an exchange of

land with the Norwich Crape Company. By this exchange the Institution secured the exclusive right of way into Magdalen Street from the south end of their property, and also the right of putting south windows in all their workshops.

A lease was granted by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for part of the premises, formerly St. Margaret's Churchyard, for 999 years, at 1s. per annum.

1892. Many of the bye-laws being of doubtful interpretation or having become obsolete, they have been carefully revised and re-arranged. A new and important feature in the management, contemplated when the reconstruction of the buildings was undertaken, has been introduced in the course of the past year by the admission of out-pupils.

1893. An anonymous benefactor gave the generous donation of £100, which enabled the Committee to transform the waste ground attached to the Institution into a suitable place for the pupils and inmates to use for exercise and recreation.

1894. The School was certified under the Education Act of 1893 to receive blind children as boarders at a fee of £30, and day scholars at £7 per annum, but in 1900 the Board of Education in London demanded the erection of a schoolroom and the provision of separate departments for boys and girls, etc. The cost of carrying out these demands was estimated at some £5,000, besides involving a considerable increase in annual expenditure. It was decided that this department should cease to exist at the end of the school year, viz., March 31st, 1901.

The result was that the Institution reverted to the position in which it was before the Committee decided to undertake the education of the young children under the Board of Education, *i.e.*, it would be open as a Technical School for suitable applicants above the age of 16 years and an Asylum for the aged.

In 1901 the Trades Exhibition Syndicate opened an Exhibition at the Agricultural Hall, and kindly offered facilities for the display of goods manufactured at the Institution. This offer was gratefully accepted, and proved a considerable success,

not only financially but by giving publicity to the activities of the Blind, the latter being most important, as it is well known that unless a good market is found for the clearance of manufactured stock, the accumulation of goods and the outlay resulting without any return is in no way helpful to the Blind becoming self-supporting. The Institution continued to exhibit until 1912, when it was considered unnecessary, as no surplus stocks required disposing of as in previous years.

1902. During the past year Consols, representing a value of £4,286 1s. 3d., were transferred to Trustees of the Institution under the will of the late Mrs. Susanna Rump, of Norwich, who died in the year 1896, having appointed the Institution her residuary legatee. The will was disputed by the Executors, but after protracted legal proceedings its provisions were upheld. Under this bequest the inmates are entertained each year to a concert.

1905. The Institution signalized its Centenary by appealing for funds to provide for current expenditure, having experienced a considerable diminution of income owing to the reduction in the rate of interest on Bank Stock.

1911. The Institution sustained a great loss by the death of Mr. John Shave, who had been Superintendent and Secretary for 25 years. In consequence of her husband's death, Mrs. Shave resigned her position as Matron. The writer was appointed to fill the vacancy.

1913. The Committee granted a bonus of 10% on wages earned by the Blind journeymen.

This year new fire exits were built, and Harrison's automatic knitting machines were purchased, Gardner's Trust making a grant of £50 toward the outlay.

1915. A new workroom was built for the use of the female pupils, and a new saleroom on the ground in the front of the present one, bringing it in a line with the street. The cost of the new addition amounted to £569, exclusive of fittings and heating apparatus. This was raised by subscriptions and donations, among the most generous being Gardner's Trust

£100, National Institute for the Blind £50, and Miss Gorrell £50. This was formally opened on July 27th by the Countess of Leicester.

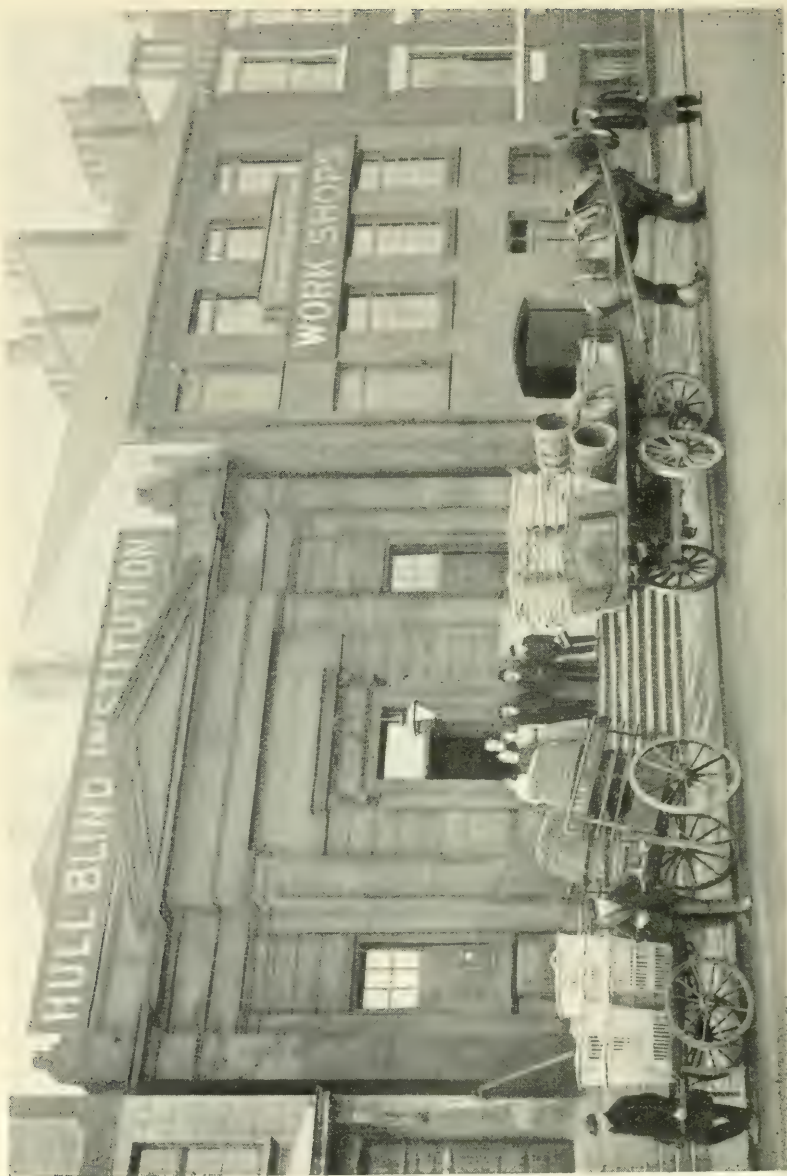
During this year the Committee granted a weekly bonus to the Blind workers and also increased their wages.

1916. The building of the previous year fully warranted the outlay. Work was much more plentiful, a matter of great importance. Another Harrison knitting machine was purchased. The female pupils now learn machine and hand knitting and chair caning.

The proceeds from the sales of articles made in the Institution has grown. In 1805-10 it was an average of £89 3s. 8d. per year; 1811-20, £217 5s. 1d.; 1841-50, £441 13s. 6d.; 1870, £574 11s. 8d.; 1902, £589 10s. 10d.; 1914, £778 3s. 8d.; 1915, £1,033 3s. 0d.; 1916, £1,213 4s. 7d.; and 1917, £1,606 9s. 9d.

For 113 years this Institution has been working quietly and without fuss. The amount of good it must have accomplished in helping the otherwise helpless, in cheering the cheerless, and in comforting the comfortless must remain uncomputed until the last grand balance sheet is read. As it is, we can only realize very dimly what has been attempted and what has been done during the years that have elapsed since it was founded.





The Blind.

VOL. V.

No. 86.

APRIL 19TH, 1919.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before June 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, price 2/4 a year, post free, and single copies, price 7d., post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. It was only in our last number (par. 12) that we announced the death of Mrs. Ann Bright, and now it is with much regret that we have to record the death of her husband, the Rev. Henry Bright, on January 25th. He and his wife were the founders in 1880 of the North London Homes for Aged Christian Blind Men and Women, 65 to 77, Hanley Road, Crouch Hill, London, N.4, and successfully carried them on together for thirty-five years. At a special meeting of the Committee held on January 29th, a resolution was unanimously passed to give expression to the esteem and admiration felt for Mr. Bright by those in close touch with his work. The funeral service was held in the Jubilee Hall, attached to the Homes, on January 30th, and the subsequent interment took place in Highgate Cemetery. Mr. Bright was blind from birth, and yet passed through a life of the fullest activity, resulting in the successful foundation of the Homes, which will be his lasting memorial.

2. The news of the death of Mr. H. S. E. Spencer has been received with great regret. He was educated at Dulwich College, whence he proceeded to Jesus College on an exhibition. He took a second class in Moderations and also in Literis Humanioribus in 1915. He acquired the art of

massage, and worked in a military hospital. Mr. Spencer acted as Secretary to Mr. Stainsby, with whom he worked by day, and pursued his medical studies in the evening. He was employed to make a report for the National Institute for the Blind on "Aftercare," and was recently sent to a shell-shock hospital near Liverpool, where he had charge of twenty beds. Here he was seized with influenza, and very soon succumbed to its effects. He had great gifts, and was of a most lovable nature. He once told a friend of ours that his ideal was Locke's "Beloved Vagabond." He would sometimes do acts of much daring, and altogether his is a personality very hard to spare. Mr. Spencer was the son of Dr. Spencer, who is an Inspector of the teaching of modern languages under the Board of Education.

3. We regret to announce the death of Miss Mitchell, an enthusiastic worker in connection with the Royal Institution for the Blind at Bradford. In 1899 she was elected a member of the Committee, and in 1906 became Hon. Secretary. From the first she realised the pressing need of the Blind, especially of those who were not workers at the Institution.

4. Few of our readers who have been to Brighton will not have seen and listened to Mr. Harry Vowies, best known as "Blind Harry," who used to stand on the Marine Parade where Brighton and Hove join, and sing with much taste to the accompaniment of his melodeon. It is with much regret that we have to announce his death from influenza on the 20th of February last, the anniversary of his wedding day. He had sung and played at the same spot for thirty five years, and once a year, in his younger days, he walked unaided and unaccompanied to Putney for the boat race week. These walks he always took by night. He was, indeed, a well-known and remarkable Brighton character.

5. The Right Hon. Viscount Cobham has resigned his membership of the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind

on account of ill-health, and Mr. Ralph Neville has been appointed in his stead.

6. At the age of eighteen years Herbert Donald Sparrow was successful in obtaining the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists at the examination held last January, and was also awarded the Turpin Prize. He commenced his education in the Kindergarten Branch of the Royal Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, at Harborne, and continued his musical training on being transferred to Edgbaston.

When fifteen years of age he obtained a scholarship awarded by the Midland section of the Incorporated Society of Musicians of the value of ten guineas per annum, tenable at the Birmingham Institution, and has also secured several book prizes at other examinations held by that Society.

Subsequently the Council of the National Institute for the Blind in recognition of his distinct progress, met the fees for his training at Birmingham.

When sixteen years of age he was appointed organist of the Erdington Baptist Church, which position he still occupies with great ability. It is gratifying to all concerned to realise that he has very much distinguished himself, and it is pleasing to know that in order to mark their appreciation of his services, the congregation of the Erdington Baptist Church has presented him with his F.R.C.O. hood.

7. Francis Quinn, a pupil of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, Edinburgh, obtained his diploma of Associate at the examination of the Royal College of Organists held in January last.

8. The President of the Local Government Board has appointed Mr. G. Locker-Lampson, M.P., to be Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind. The former Chairman was Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., when he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board.

9. Mr. W. A. Fooks has been articled to a solicitor in Exeter, and Mr. J. L. Sowden has been ordained to a church in Hoxton; both were students at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester. There are twenty-four students at the College—the highest number on record.

10. In the 51st annual report of the Preston Institution for the Blind the following reference is made to the resignation of Lt.-Col. Jolly, M.B.E., well-known to many of our readers:—
 “The resignation of Lt.-Col. Jolly of the position of Secretary after forty-four years’ tenure of office, was received with profound regret. During that period Col. Jolly had been markedly identified with the progress of the Institution, and prominently associated in all efforts to ensure its financial stability; whilst his unrivalled experience and business capacity had at all times been unreservedly placed at the disposal of the Committee, who were glad to be able to report that he had consented to undertake the less exacting duties of Honorary Treasurer, an association which it was sincerely hoped might be maintained for many years.”

And at the annual meeting when the report was read the Mayor said he had known Col. Jolly for nearly forty years, and that it was amazing to him that he could go on doing the work of three men during that time.

Mr. Booth, on behalf of the Committee, asked Col. Jolly to accept a little souvenir as a very small token of the great respect they had towards him. It was very few who could boast of their work for forty-four years in one good cause, and he hoped that Col. Jolly would remain with them for many years to come.

The present consisted of a writing and stationery cabinet and a dispatch case. The inscription on the cabinet read:—
 “Presented to Col. Jolly, M.B.E., V.D., J.P., Secretary of the Homes for the Blind, Fulwood, 1874 to 1918, with the affectionate regard of the Committee.”

Col. Jolly said it was difficult for him to thank sufficiently the Committee for the presentation which they had asked him

o accept, and which he would prize very highly. It was a great wrench to him to sever his connection as Secretary of the Home, but he was glad to take up the position of Hon. Treasurer.

11. On January 29th an armistice dinner was given at Whitefield's Tabernacle by the Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Blind, Tottenham Court Road, to about 200 of its blind workers and staff. Mr. Howard Mullins, Secretary, presided, and sent a telegram to the King, expressing the thanks of their Royal blind subjects to his Majesty and the Queen for the patronage of the Association. Mr. Ben Purse proposed the toast "Success to the Association," and expressed the gratitude of the Blind for its work. The Rev. Barton Mills replied. The dinner was followed by an excellent concert.

12. The Examination of Candidates for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College, are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates, who must have reached the age of sixteen and be resident in England or Wales, should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19.

13. Since 1916 when the National Library for the Blind was declared free to all the Blind in the United Kingdom, the daily work of sending out literature in embossed type has steadily developed. The average number of volumes despatched from Westminster is 500 a day, and the work has exactly doubled within the last three days. The record number of volumes despatched was 543 on February 25th.

These books are sent to all parts of the British Isles, also to India and the Colonies. A little imagination is needed in order to appreciate the work. Each book, for instance, is very bulky, being 14in. x 11in., and weighing 5lbs., while the most ordinary ink print book runs into 8-12 volumes. The cost of producing one of these volumes by hand is £1.

On the musical side the Library is proving the greatest assistance to blind organists and teachers, and its selection of 8,000 pieces is much in request, and is being constantly added to. An examination of the catalogue of the National Library reveals a catholic-minded selection of some of the best literary work in the English language, and it is the Committee's aim to reproduce as much modern literature as possible, and to cater for all classes of readers. At the present moment the Library's writers are engaged upon such widely differing works as Swete's "Anglo-Saxon Reader," Snell's "Equity," M. Buchanan's "Petrograd," Puaux's "Life of Marshal Foch," Le Queux's "Zeppelin Destroyer," Jack London's "Smoke Bellew," etc., etc.

As a subsidiary part of its service it should be explained that the voluntary workers of the Library are rendering most efficient help to the blinded soldiers and sailors, undertaking their tuition in Braille reading and writing, both in hospital, and later at St. Dunstan's Hostel. Considerably over 200 of the old St. Dunstan's men are keen and enthusiastic readers. In addition, consignments of books are sent almost daily to St. Dunstan's itself.

An interesting point with regard to book production is that part of a volume was recently sent from Constantinople transcribed into embossed type by a young naval officer whilst on active service. He still gives about two hours a week for this work.

The Library depends entirely upon voluntary contributions, and is without endowment—funds are urgently needed to enable the Committee to develop it fully in response to the demands made upon it by the Blind.

Anybody interested in this unique work and wishing to hear further details should write to Miss Prince, the Secretary, or call at 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

14. The following books in Braille have been added to the public library at Oxford:—Jenks's "Short History of English Law"; Gairdner's "Houses of Lancaster and York"; Introduction to A. Marshall's "Principles of Economics."

15. A very successful meeting of the Northern Branch of the National Library for the Blind was held in the State Room of the Mansion House, York, on March 9th, when the Lord Mayor presided. Miss Bellhouse, Secretary of the Branch, explained the work and advocated the claims of the Library. A resolution was passed approving its work, and promising to support the establishment of the branch to develop its policy throughout the six northern counties of England together with Derbyshire and Cheshire.

16. We are pleased to be able to report that the local Advisory Committees on the welfare of the Blind which have been set up by the Local Government Board, covering the whole of England and Wales, have already got to work.

The first meeting held was that of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association on March 14th at 53, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, when there were present twenty-nine members. Mr. Henry J. Wilson was appointed Chairman, and Miss D. L. Jones and Miss A. A. Horne were appointed Secretaries for the Metropolis and adjacent counties Associations respectively. The business transacted was chiefly preliminary, i.e., fixing the place for future meetings, the time and the day, &c.

Mr. Macgregor, Secretary of the Central Advisory Committee at the Local Government Board, gave an interesting and excellent address on the work of that Committee and of what was expected from the local Committees.

On March 20th the local Advisory Committee for the North of England held its first meeting in Manchester, when Mr. John Booth was elected Chairman, and Miss Winifred Bramhall, Secretary. The meeting of the Midland Counties was held on March 24th in Birmingham, when Mr. Arthur Lowe, C.B.E., was appointed Chairman, and Mrs. W. H. Thurman, Secretary. The meeting for the West of England was held on March 27th in Exeter, when Mr. Walker King was appointed Chairman, and Miss King, Secretary. Mr. Macgregor attended all the meetings, and gave an excellent address at each. Those for the

North West of England, for the Eastern Counties and for South Wales were to be held early this month.

17. On February 19th the annual meeting of the Oxford Society for the Blind was held at Brazennose College, Oxford, and the report was very satisfactory. There are sixty men and boys, and fifty-six women and girls on the county register. Mr. G. F. Mowatt gave an interesting address comparing the position of the Blind to-day with what it was not many years ago.

18. The annual meeting of the Northern Counties Association for the Blind was held on Wednesday, 26th March, at the Fulwood Homes for the Blind, Preston. The Mayor of Preston took the chair and welcomed the delegates. A discussion on "The Future Work of the Association" was opened by Mr. M. Priestley of the Royal Institution for the Blind, Bradford.

19. The Barclay Home for Blind and Partially Blind Girls, Brighton, has federated with the Barclay Workshop for Blind Women, London, and they will, in future, issue one annual report under the title of the Barclay Institution for the Blind.

Each Institution will still retain its separate Committee of Management and separate financial arrangements, but each Committee appoints representatives to form the Committee of the Barclay Institutions,

H.R.H. Prince Louise, Duchess of Argyll, has graciously consented to become the first President.

The Chairman of the Joint Committee is Mr. Godfrey Mowatt, J.P., who has also just been elected Chairman of the Barclay Home, Brighton, in the place of the Hon. Mrs. Campion, who has resigned this post after more than twenty-six years splendid work, much to the regret of all her colleagues. The Hon. Mildred Dodson, Chairman of the Barclay Workshop, has been elected Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee, and Mr. Henry J. Wagg, Hon. Secretary of all three Committees

The Barclay Workshop for Blind Women has just moved to larger premises, 21, Crawford Street, London, W.1 (Telephone Mayfair 4961). Its work since its foundation in 1905 has been handicapped through having no proper showroom, and although the sales have increased enormously, it is anticipated that with the attractive showroom now possessed the work should develop much more rapidly.

The showroom has been painted almost entirely in black, and makes a most pleasing contrast to the varied and beautiful colourings of the dress materials and other woven goods. A large plate glass window separates the showroom from the chief workroom, so that customers are able to see the women at work without being disturbed by the noise of the looms. The ground floor measures 68ft. from back to front. Eighteen looms and three knitting machines are fitted up so far, and there is room for expansion. A good kitchen and mess room are provided on the third floor.

20. The Education Act for Scotland contains clauses of great importance to the Blind, the compulsory age of attendance being raised to eighteen years, and provision made for maintenance during the period of higher education.

21. The President and Council of the League of the Empire held an inaugural meeting in honour of the soldier-teachers from the Oversea Dominions in the Marble Hall of the India Office on February 8th. H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught presided, and said that he had served for two years with the Canadian Corps Overseas, and he felt sure that the soldier-teachers would go back home all the better for their experiences at the front and in this country. Mr. Fisher, Minister for Education, mentioned that 20,000 elementary school teachers of this country had served in the war.

Sir Cyril Cobb (L.C.C.), said the London educational authority would do its utmost to make the Overseas teachers acquainted with our educational methods and to exchange views with English teachers. He thought it would be a good idea to

have interchange of teachers between the Homeland and the Colonies, and perhaps it might be possible for the visitors to commence at once.

The Under-Secretary for the Colonies, the Head Master of Winchester, and Lord Gorell, on behalf of the War Office, added words of cordial welcome.

The Archbishop of Canterbury proposed a vote of thanks to Prince Arthur, who, in response, made an allusion to the temperature of the hall, which was intensely cold, and assured the visitors that the British welcome to them was of the utmost cordiality and warmth notwithstanding.

There were between 500 and 600 present at the meeting.

22. A meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the Offices of Gardners Trust for the Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, at 11.30 a.m. on October 19th, 1918.

There were present—Mr. H. J. Wilson in the Chair, Miss Garaway, Messrs. G. Campbell, B. P. Jones, T. H. Martin, A. P. Pearson, J. M. Ritchie, H. Stainsby (Hon. Registrar), W. M. Stone, W. E. Taylor, and W. H. Thurman.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr. W. H. Illingworth and Sir Washington Ranger.

The reports of the Sub-Committee appointed to revise the arithmetic notation were considered.

An interim report of the Committee appointed to consider what means, if any, can be taken to secure greater educational efficiency of Trade Instructors in Schools for the Blind was presented.

A letter from the Board of Education was read, approving the appointment of Examiners for the current year.

A meeting of the Board of Fellows of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held immediately before the following meeting of the Committee.

A meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at the Offices of Gardner's Trust for the

Blind, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on Saturday, 15th February, 1919, at 11.30 a.m.

There were present—Mr. H. J. Wilson in the Chair, Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Mr. A. P. Pearson, Mr. J. M. Ritchie, and Mr. Henry Stainsby, Hon. Registrar.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. G. M. Campbell, B. P. Jones, W. M. Stone, and W. H. Thurman.

The Hon. Registrar reported that Mr. H. S. E. Spencer, M.A., Secretary of the Research Department of the National Institute for the Blind, who, he regretted to say, had succumbed to influenza a few days ago, had been in communication with the members of the College Sub-Committee, who had finally decided that the best method of improving the Taylor Frame was by the use of additional algebraical pegs.

The Council of the National Institute are in agreement with this suggestion, and are willing to withdraw the old pamphlet and issue a new one on the improved lines. The Sub-Committee were asked to report further to the next meeting.

The Hon. Registrar reported that on 7th November, 1918, he sent an extract from the Sub-Committee's report on Efficiency of Trade Instructors, with covering letter, to sixty-four schools and workshops for the Blind in England and Wales.

The Hon. Registrar reported that the syllabus for 1919 examination had been published, and that copies had been issued to all members of the Committee.

The draft report of the Committee of the College for the year ended 31st December, 1918, was considered, and after slight modifications was approved for presentation at the annual meeting of the College.

The Hon. Registrar submitted statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1918, duly audited by Messrs. Drury, Thurgood and Co.

It was resolved to hold the annual meeting of the College at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1, on Saturday, 22nd March, 1919, at 11.30 a.m. Mr. Henry J. Wilson to take the Chair.

The Hon. Registrar reported that the College had been placed on the list of Approved Societies for the Blind prepared and issued by the Local Government Board.

The resignation of the Rev. Arthur Taylor, M.A., as a member of the Council was received with sincere regret.

The 11th annual report of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind for the year ending 31st December, 1918, was presented at the annual meeting held on March 22nd, 1919.

It states that "the examination for 1918 was held on 14th and 15th May at the London Society for Teaching and Training the Blind, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3, by kind permission of the Council of the School. The Committee of the College desire to place on record their warm appreciation of the excellent arrangements made for the conduct of the examination by Mr. J. M. Ritchie, the Superintendent and Secretary of the School.

Sixteen candidates presented themselves, of whom eleven sat for the first time. One of the candidates was blind, and two were partially blind. All the candidates were women. The call of all eligible men to service in H.M. Forces accounts for the absence of men at the examination. Only one candidate failed to obtain the College diploma.

The number of candidates including those of 1918, who have taken the certificate of the College by examination since its foundation is 156, made up as follows :—

Men	...	...	39	Blind	...	...	23
Women	...	...	117	Sighted...	...	...	133
			<u>156</u>				<u>156</u>

In addition to the foregoing thirty-seven honorary certificates have been granted.

The Examiners appointed to conduct the 1919 examination are as follows:—Miss J. I. Falconer, Mr. P. Gray, Mr. A. P. Pearson, B.A., F.C.T.B., Mr. J. M. Ritchie, M.A., F.C.T.B., and Mr. W. M. Stone, F.E.I.S., F.C.T.B.

The office of Moderator has been discontinued.

During the year Mrs. Guy M. Campbell, Miss E. Walker Finlay, Mr. A. H. James, Mr. H. J. Mines, and Mr. S. E. Stevens were elected members of the Council.

During the year a fellowship of the College has been bestowed upon Mr. John Macgregor Ritchie, M.A., in recognition of his long, continuous and distinguished service in the education of the Blind.

Arising out of a recommendation submitted to the Committee by the Board of Examiners, a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider what means, if any, could be taken to secure greater educational efficiency in the work of Trade Instructors in Schools for the Blind. After due consideration the Sub-Committee reported as follows:—

“With regard to existing Instructors your Sub-Committee is of opinion that little or nothing can be done, except to suggest to the Institutions employing them that facilities be granted for obtaining further general and technical education where such is possible, and for visiting up-to-date schools and workshops occasionally. The adequate training of Trade Instructors must, your Committee fear, stand in abeyance for the present, but suggest that in the meantime where new instructors have to be engaged, this should be done by advertisement, substantial salaries being offered to men who show, besides some pretence to education, marked skill in their trade as well. After such appointments have been made facilities should be given to these Trade Instructors to pursue their studies, educational and technical, as recommended in the case of existing instructors.”

The names of the successful candidates at the examination held in May, 1918, were given in *The Blind*, No. 83, par. 20.

23. The annual meeting of the Council of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held on March 22nd, and that of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union of Societies for the Blind on March 20th. In our next number we hope to give a full account of both meetings, as well as of the meeting of the Committee of the College held also on March 22nd.

THE HULL BLIND INSTITUTION.

By W. C. Rockliffe, M.A., M.D., Cantab. &c., Hon. Secretary,
Treasurer, and Ophthalmic Surgeon for 34 years.

In reviewing the records of philanthropy in favour of the Blind, it would appear that prior to the 18th Century very little was done in that direction until a noble example was set by the Clothworkers Company, who, in 1718, established their "Pension Fund." This was followed in 1774 by a generous gift by the Rev. William Hetherington and the foundation of his charity. Three years afterwards (1777) the "Humston Society" was founded, and in 1796 the Cordwainers, Painters and Drapers were inaugurated, the foregoing having their headquarters in London. The first Provincial Societies were the "York Emmanuel" (1781) and Bristol (1793), and during the succeeding fifty years several other Societies were commenced in the United Kingdom for granting Pensions, but although all foundations of whatever value were a great boon to the fortunate recipients, it was not until the end of the 18th Century that philanthropists began to realise that "Occupation for mind and body" was the most essential requisite to alleviate the mental anxiety of the afflicted. To meet this view Liverpool set a splendid example in 1791 by founding a "Residential School," this was followed in 1793 by Bristol, which City, in addition to their Pension Society, added a workshop. In 1799 London followed by opening its first school at Southport.

From this date, other workshops for the Blind were commenced. Exeter (1838), Nottingham (1843), and Birmingham (1845), until in 1864 there were eleven additional workshops, including in the number the *Hull Blind Institution*.

Early in the 19th Century *Homes* for the Blind were inaugurated, the first being the Norwich Home (1805), Bath (1857), St. John's Wood (1864), Bristol (1874), and in Hull the "Rockliffe Home for Blind Women" (1889).

The above gradual development of assistance, education,

employment, and Homes, is interesting as a National advance in keeping with all other philanthropic and educational movements, and in which movement the Hull Institution participated. It appears that in 1863 Mr. Joseph Coultas Akester, a prominent local chemist, had a friend named Moon (probably the late Dr. Moon's father) visiting from London, who so impressed him with the enormous benefits the blind were deriving from being taught to read the blind (Moon) type by the "London Society for teaching the Blind to read in their own homes" that, inspired with enthusiasm for the Hull Blind, they together interviewed Alderman C. R. Lambert (who was blind), and through whose instrumentality a Hull branch of the London Society was immediately commenced. The parent Society supplied and paid the cost of an instructor for one year, at the termination of which Mr. Lambert had formed an influential gentleman's and ladies' Committee, by whose exertions sufficient funds were raised to maintain the Institution's own blind instructor, and in 1864 the *Hull Blind Institution* was established on a satisfactory basis.

All those who rendered the self-sacrificing work above referred to have gone to their rest, but their good works followed them, and it is gratifying to notice not only that Mr. Edward Lambert, J.P. (Alderman Lambert's son) has occupied the Vice-President's Chair since 1884, and is still in office, but in addition his sister, Miss A. C. Lambert, is the Hon. Lady Secretary, and has been since that year.

THE HOME TEACHING DEPARTMENT.

The Hull Institution was originally as previously stated commenced as a branch of the "London Society," and according to this Society's 1913 report was the sixteenth of the then many provincial associations in the British Isles having similar origins and objects, viz., to teach the blind in in their own homes to read the Holy Scriptures, and to supply them with suitable books in Moon or other types.

From 1864 to the present time this work has been continued by our blind Librarian and colporteur. In 1864 ninety

Hull blind were on the books, fifty-two of whom had acquired or were steadily acquiring the ability to read the Bible and other books then at our disposal in the Moon type, and from this period the Library steadily grew, and was much helped by the kindness of the late Sir Chas. Lowther, Bart., who presented a large number of Moon type books, in addition to those procured as funds permitted. Since 1899 this library has been valuably augmented by loans from the Hull Corporation Public Library's Committee, this Committee finding our methods of circulating these books more advantageous to the blind readers than stocking them on their own Public Library shelves. At the present time we have 700 volumes, including 450 in Braille type and 250 in Moon, and a regular supply of several periodicals and magazines, resulting in our possessing one of the most complete Provincial Libraries.

During 1918 550 volumes were delivered by our blind Librarian to about forty regular readers, and for such purpose he made about 1,000 visits.

In addition to his occupation of colporteur he visits every blind person on the books, and reports all cases needing assistance, thereby keeping the Committee in constant touch with all the Blind in the City, who are visited by him at least once a fortnight, and more frequently in the case of illness.

In 1911 the Corporation generously granted free tram rides to the Blind, and our blind visitor has in consequence been able to increase very materially the number of his visits for the purposes before referred to.

The Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act coming into force in 1894 relieved us of the responsibility of looking after our blind children, which hitherto had been an important part of our work, but the Act has proved an incalculable benefit from an educational point of view, and also in inculcating discipline and encouraging development of both body, mind and character.

In June, 1870, Mr. John Briggs (who had been Hon. Secretary from the commencement and done much for the Society) retired, and Mr. Thos. Priestman was appointed in

his place, who further developed the Institution by purchasing the old Hull Medical School at a cost of £560, of which sum £400 was given conditionally by a friend. The balance being raised in smaller sums.

THE WORKSHOP.

Following the lines of other Institutions, the Committee decided in 1866 to introduce industrial occupation in the form of basket-making, and a small workshop was opened in one room in Nile Street. The 1869 annual report stating—“It is gratifying to record the appreciation of this new branch by the Blind, and indisputably establishes the fact that when opportunity is given the Blind are willing to help themselves to earn their own livelihood.” In 1869 four blind men were employed, 627 baskets were made, 510 sold, but although the total expenditure amounted to £189, the cash sales only netted £74.

In 1870 eight blind men were employed, and 955 baskets realising £193 were made. The Committee however finding it necessary to make alterations in the management of the workshops, a considerable financial improvement followed.

In 1870 Mrs. Lambert commenced a reading class for blind boys, which flourished for several years, and in 1873 she also formed a knitting class for blind women. This latter, however, was discontinued three years later, owing to the difficulty in disposing of the articles made.

During the following ten years 1873–1883 the Institution progressed steadily. In 1883 pressure of business compelled Mr. Thos. Priestman to retire in favour of his brother, Mr. Albert Priestman, as Hon. Secretary, and in the following year Dr. Rockliffe was elected Hon. Treasurer. In November, 1883, the building being in a condition of serious disrepair, and there being only thirteen male and no female employees, the Committee accepted the suggestion of their Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, and decided to entirely re-organise the Institution.

It was at this period that blind Dr. Armitage, who was practically devoting his life to the cause, kindly accepted the invitation to take the chair at the first public meeting, and it is

not too much to say that his most interesting and instructive address was the means of rekindling the Hull public sympathy for the Blind. The immediate appeal made to the public under the title of "The Hull Blind Institution Extension Fund," resulted in the building being almost entirely rebuilt in the following twelve months (assisted by Gardner's Trust for the Blind) at a cost of £ 800.

Additional employments, viz., cork fender making and cane chair seating were introduced, and for the first time in the annals of the Institution (with the exception of Mrs. Lambert's knitting class in 1873) three blind women were employed.

In 1885 a retail shop was opened, but the extra supervision necessitated its closure in a few years. During this year various entertainments were organised to liquidate the outstanding debt, and in 1886 this liability was entirely eradicated and the surplus set aside as a nucleus towards the formation of a "Sick Fund." At first, small weekly contributions were paid to this fund by the employees, but as their small earnings would not permit of the expenditure, in 1889 this "Sick Fund" was abolished, and the so-called "Sick Benefit and Entertainment Branch" was substituted, which has proved probably the most useful and beneficial branch of the Institution.

Of the many improvements connected with the Extension Fund, a dining room was opened. Hitherto the Blind had to partake of their own provided meagre meals where best they could; whereas now they had their (own) dinners cooked or warmed by the Matron or provided by generous donors, and during the dinner hour several ladies kindly read the daily papers, etc.

In 1887, owing to Mr. A. Priestman going abroad, Dr. Rockliffe undertook the combined duties of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and in 1892 it was deemed absolutely necessary to still further enlarge the Institution, being in need of—

1. Increased accommodation for women workers.
2. Additional warehouse room.
3. Homes for single and aged Blind.

A Building Fund was therefore commenced. Assistance was solicited by every available means, including the formation of the Hull Blind Institution Orchestra, under the management of the Hon. Secretary. All the Secretaries of the various sporting and athletic clubs of the town and district were summoned to a public meeting, and two delegates from each were nominated to act on the Sub-Committee. Intense enthusiasm for the cause throughout the town was displayed, resulting in a very short time of £163 being received from these small clubs and societies.

Five years later (1897) the Committee had the satisfaction of not only having been able to effect the above first two objects, but also of providing a site for the home for blind women, and it was decided in 1898 to appeal again for another £ 3,000 to get rid of the mortgages and debt on the above and to convert and furnish the Home. Once more the Gardner Trustees came forward with a handsome conditional grant, and the public response exceeding the Committee's expectations, the Home was formally opened on February 23rd, 1889.

By a resolution carried unanimously at a Committee meeting in Kingston Square, February 26th, and confirmed at the annual meeting March 11th, 1903, the name of the Home was henceforward changed to "The Rockliffe Home for Blind Women" in consideration of the work done by the Hon. Secretary in this matter.

The obituary of 1905 included Mr. Fred Moore, who had been the blind reader and instructor to the Institution for fifteen years. His life was devoted to his afflicted brethren, and had it not been for him many of the previously mentioned developments of the Institution would not have been so successfully achieved.

Two also of the original Committee, Mr. J. Briggs and Mr. C. E. Blundell, both passed away, who by coincidence were co-Secretaries in the early days of the Institution. By the decease also of Mrs. Haworth Booth (wife of a former President), the Institution sustained a severe loss. It was through her interest that the Yorkshire Ladies' Needlework Guild first

included the Hull Blind Institution in their annual distribution. This has been continued up to the present, and is a valuable adjunct to our Christmas gifts.

1907 deprived us of our President, the late Lord Nunburnholme, who for seventeen years had occupied the Chair and materially assisted the Institution by his sound advice and ever open purse. He further bequeathed a legacy of £250.

Also by the lamented death of Miss G. Lambert, the second daughter of the late Alderman Lambert, the Institution sustained a severe loss. From the earliest days she, like her sister, our present Hon. Lady Secretary, Miss A. C. Lambert, had devoted a greater portion of her life to those to whom her father had such an intense interest, and although not taking such an active part as her sister, by her constant interest and visits had enshrined herself for ever in the memory of the Blind.

In 1909 Mr. P. B. Reckitt kindly accepted the Presidential Chair, thereby restoring the name of Reckitt on the Committee on which his father, Sir James Reckitt, took an active part in the early days of the Institution.

In 1910 the Institution received a legacy of £8 5s. od. (a probably unique experience) from Chas. Henry Raithby, a blind man, practically a pauper, in return for the benefits he had received from the Institution during his life time.

In March, 1911, the Hull Corporation conferred a great boon on the Blind by granting them free tram rides.

During this year also the Health Insurance Act came into force. The Committee, however, felt it their duty to pay both the blind employees and employers contributions, as no blind man could spare even 4d. per week, and still less the women 3d.

SICK BENEFIT AND ENTERTAINMENT BRANCH.

As above stated this Branch was commenced in 1889 in substitution for the Sick Fund, the first Committee meeting being held April 3rd, 1889, when there were present—Mr. Edward Lambert, J.P. (in the chair), Messrs. G. R. Haller, Rev. Carnegie Brown, and Dr. Rockliffe, Hon. Secretary. Rules and bye-laws were drawn up, and

(1) Every known blind person in Hull and neighbourhood was personally visited by the Hon. Secretary, and full notes made as to their condition.

(2) The whole town was sub-divided into districts, each being under the supervision of one of the twenty-eight Hon. Lady Visitors who visited each blind person every fortnight.

(3) Honorary medical men were appointed, who kindly undertook to attend and supply gratuitously with medicine, etc., those in their respective districts.

The funds of this Branch are raised by special annual subscriptions, but chiefly by the issuing of annual collecting cards.

£ 4,000 has been distributed to the Blind from this individual branch since its inauguration.

The first year's syllabus contained twelve Committee meetings, fifteen concerts, nine lectures, four teas, including the first Christmas festivities, and three excursions.

Each meeting commenced at 7.30, and the newspaper was read during the first half hour.

The above description exemplifies the work of this branch. A few specimens of the relief may be of interest.

Arrears of rent through illness or other causes known to the Committee were advanced to avert the Home being sold up.

Stock in trade supplied to commence blind tea agents, firewood dealers, small shop keepers, hawkers, etc.

Tickets, etc., for Convalescent Home, after illness.

Wringing machines for laundry women.

Special knitting machines for those unable to knit from other causes than blindness.

Assistance towards purchase of animals for hawkers.

Materials for private basket work, cork fender making, or cane chair seating.

And many similar aids.

SUMMER OUTING.

From the earliest days of the Institution a sort of annual outing had been arranged for the Blind, the Committee granting £10 per annum towards the expenses. This, however, in a few years was discontinued, the Blind preferring to have this amount divided between them in cash gifts, which at the time would have amounted to about 2/- a head.

On the formation of the Sick Benefit and Entertainment Branch in 1889, excursions formed part of the annual programme, including not only the annual seaside excursion, but also visits to the country mansions of our local magnates, who defrayed all the expenses, usually amounting to about £50 or £60. Now the seaside excursion only has been continued annually since 1889, under the title of "Summer Outing for the Blind," and the funds are raised by special appeal to the public through the Press. This and the Xmas Festivities form the two red letter days of the year, Withernsea, Hornsea, Scarborough or Bridlington being the places visited. The latter place, being preferred by the Blind, has most frequently been selected, and the day's entertainment usually includes one hour's sail, one hour's drive, substantial meat tea, and last, but not least, free admission to the Parade, which has up to date always been kindly granted by the Bridlington Parade Committee. The kindness of the boatmen must be alluded to, and the Harbour Master, and, in fact, everybody appears to make it their delight to assist the Blind and the Committee to make this a really happy day.

MASSAGE.

As a source of employment for the Blind this had been under consideration for some little time, and in 1906 was placed in a practical position by the generosity of a staunch supporter of the Institution, who offered to pay £20 towards the expenditure of the instruction of two blind girls; a class including thirty male and female Blind was at once formed, and instruction given twice a week for some months in anatomy, physiology, electricity, etc. A few women at the dictation of the Matron, after each lecture, brailled the text books of the subject treated, which was followed by a short *viva*

voice examination as a preliminary to the lecture following. At the end of twelve months in 1907 the Committee sent two women for further instruction to the Marylebone Institute for massage, under the care of the late Dr. Fletcher Little. Here they soon distinguished themselves among the numerous sighted students, and in three months, by the aid of plaster of Paris models and living subjects, had completely mastered the whole anatomy and physiology, electricity, including the Nauheim treatment, Dano Swedish massage, bandaging, etc., and were granted their first certificate. Later a third student obtained this certificate, and still later in 1911 and 1912 all three passed the most searching examination of the "London Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses" being the first three blind candidates that had ever obtained this qualification, entitling them to place the initials I.S.T.M. after their names, at first the Institution paid them a regular weekly wage, provided uniform and undertook all clerical work, etc., but subsequently they practised entirely on their own initiative.

About 1913 Sir A. Pearson (having lost his sight) employed his wonderful energy and zeal in aid of the Blind, and having taken over the British and Foreign Blind Association, founded by Dr. Armitage, re-christened it the "National Institute for the Blind," and new buildings erected in Great Portland Street, were opened by His Majesty, King Edward VII. This at once raised local interest throughout the country and including Hull, new energies quickly came into existence. In 1914 a special attempt was made to raise some £7,000 in commemoration of the Jubilee year of the Hull Blind Institution, unfortunately, however, war being declared the Committee considered it an inopportune time to proceed, and the matter temporarily fell through. St. Dunstan's Hostel for blind soldiers became prominent, and the local blind seemed to be put into the background. In 1916 a working men's Committee was formed, and the enthusiasm was immense, fresh efforts were made in every direction to improve the condition of the Hull blind, by monetary and other gifts, augmentation of wages, war bonus, etc., and as the result of a flag day (contributing some £800)

weekly gratuities of 2/- to 5/- were made to the workpeople, and the whole of the balance divided between the deserving and necessitous blind of Hull.

In December, 1917, after thirty-four years of active service, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. Rockliffe, was compelled to relinquish his offices in favour of Mr. G. W. Burstall, Hon. Secretary, and Mr. T. J. Ferens, Hon. Treasurer, who, being inspired with enthusiasm from a visit to St. Dunstan's, once more "woke up" the Hull Blind Institution, and, together with the working men's Committee, introduced new occupations, &c., and generally bettered the condition of the Hull Blind. The weekly receipts of the workpeople being more than doubled (some men receiving over £2 and women more than £1), this attraction has materially increased the number of employees, necessitating in 1918 the contemplation of further enlargement and probably entirely new buildings.



Leeds United Institution for the Blind and the Deaf
and Dumb. Founded 1866.

The Blind.

VOL. V.

No. 87.

JULY 19TH, 1919.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 20th, to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

"The Blind" is published on the 20th of January, April, July, and October of each year, price 2/4 a year, post free, and single copies, price 7d., post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

NOTES.

1. It is with sincere regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. Charles Hartley. He was a member of the Advisory Committee on the Blind to the Local Government Board, where he will be much missed, and the well-known manager of the Liverpool Workshops for the Blind. He was remarkably successful in his work and was looked on as one of the most practical and business-like managers of Workshops for the Blind. He had withal a most kind and sympathetic temperament, a quiet reserve of administrative strength, and knowledge of the Blind. At our request Mr. Dunning, deputy manager of the workshop, has kindly written the following obituary notice:—
"Charles Ambrose Hartley, the late Manager of the Liverpool Workshops for the Blind, died on 20th May, 1919, at the age of sixty-two. By his deeply lamented and untimely death the cause of the Blind has lost one of its most able and devoted servants, and many are deprived of a highly valued and worthy friend. He will be mourned by all, as he was respected by all who knew him and his great and useful work for society, particularly in connection with the Liverpool "Workshops," with which he was associated for thirty-two years, with ever widening success.

"Born in 1857, the boy, when seven years old, was thrown into the serious business of life, and began to do something towards earning his living in the mat-making industry. His

precocious ability and steadfast character soon became recognised by his employers, and at the early age of eighteen, he was already the head of a department in one of the best houses in the trade.

“But success never disturbed the mental balance of the youth (and never of the man), who was always willing to learn from any source, no matter how insignificant, and he never altered through life in his familiar friendships with the lowliest. An earnest respect for elders and seniors was undoubtedly one of the main pillars of that success which attended him throughout his career. Once, on the occasion of a trade dispute, the youth journeyed by rail to participate in a strike demonstration. On the way, airing his sympathetic views very loudly, he was interrupted by an aged peasant who exhorted him with the counsel—‘Young man, whenever you pick up a stone to throw at anybody, put it into a pocket with a hole in.’ The lesson was duly digested; the adventure was the last of its kind. He became convinced of his own individuality and self-responsibility. He always regarded the incident as an epoch in his life, after which he really began to think for himself. From that conversation he formulated the business maxim which afterwards, as manager, he impressed constantly upon his staff—“Never offend.” To this, indeed, he ascribed much of his business success. His achievements, however, were due as well to his innate talent for affairs. He was a man of infinite patience, with an insatiable appetite for knowledge, and an unbounded capacity for work. He had a wonderful aptitude for mastering detail, and quickly became expert in whatever subject he approached. He regarded it as essential to know what he talked about, and attached to this the weightiest importance. He was absolutely thorough in everything he did. A zealous student of history, he was intimately conversant with the biographies of many of its great men. The writings of Smiles especially attracted him, and made a deep and favourable impression upon his life and character. He lived in constant touch with these great dead, and called them often into his private counsels.

“ In 1887 Mr. Hartley went to Liverpool, and grappled at once with the task which was to consume the remainder of his labours and of his life. At the Liverpool Workshops for the Blind the mat department then employed less than a dozen men, in what seemed a very precarious undertaking. He set to work with an ideal before him, to offer employment to every blind person capable and desirous of employment, and, notwithstanding disadvantages and scepticism, in a few years built up a flourishing trade, limited only by the incapacity of the Institution to provide for its further extension. The annual subscription roll amounted only to a few hundred pounds, none of which could be spared to help him, but this did not deter him—what was unprofitable must be avoided—the business must pay its way, and pay the blind people a living wage. “ Dispatch is the soul of business,” he urged, orders must be executed within the time prescribed, and they were, often because he himself worked in loom or at bench all night and several nights if necessary. His indomitable will and power of endurance had a magnetic charm for those who worked with him, so that men found themselves excelling their own abilities, and sometimes temporarily collapsed, leaving always the master-man undaunted and relentless. Customers grew to trust him implicitly, workmen venerated him, all admired him, and, if the “ impossible ” had to be done, all looked to him to do it as the natural thing.

“ This was the man to whom in 1906, his own department firmly established, when the other branches of the Institution were tottering to a fall and the “ Workshops ” was faced with imminent bankruptcy, the Committee turned for help, and he became the General Manager. From that moment the whole establishment rose gradually into a position of stability, begotten of the strength of the man himself. It was now that his pre-eminent business genius, his marvellous initiative, his enormous energy, and all the rare qualities of his nature, found their full vent. Before 1910 a new factory, admirably equipped with modern appliances, had risen opposite the older building ; friends and customers alike pouring in their gifts to help its erection. His spirit was infectious, and breathed health into

every aspect of the institution, and vigour into all concerned with its work. During the remaining years of his management, success steadily followed success. The struggling Birkenhead Society for the Blind was absorbed by the Liverpool "Workshops," and good permanent employment found in Liverpool for the Birkenhead Blind. The time was soon reached when no blind person in the district, capable of work, need be without it. At the time of the outbreak of war, export trade had been opened with Canada, Chili, the Argentine, Mexico, Egypt, West Africa, Spain, the United States, and Hamburg, and held promise of a great future. Despite the exigencies of war, depleted staff and curtailed opportunities, prosperity was maintained under his able guidance. He packed thousands of pounds worth of goods with his own hands, when other hands were lacking, contending the while that the busy man always finds time for everything. He was never idle, and nothing escaped his keen vigilance.

"On the inception of the Local Government Board's Advisory Committee on the Blind, it seemed inevitable to find Mr. Hartley a member of that body. He added yet these duties to his burden of responsibility, deducting on that account, however, nothing of the load he already bore. He simply prolonged the hours of toil, frequently into the early morning of the following day.

"Finally, the terrible strain began to tell. From the beginning of the present year the health and vigour of the man began slowly to decline. He was advised and implored to rest, but could not; and during the last fortnight he entered and left his office with every appearance of a dying man. He was at his desk for three hours the day before he passed away, brave and indomitable to the end. He died for the cause to which he was utterly devoted with all his soul and with all his strength. Had he chosen he certainly could have made for himself great wealth, and a name more easily, but he steadily preferred the obscurer, though more glorious, path of duty in the service of his fellow men, comparatively unknown and unrewarded. His end was all too soon, and those who knew him best feel

absolutely unable to say what he might have accomplished had he been spared to us but another decade. To know him was a privilege; to remember him will always be a pleasure and an inspiration to all."

2. We regret to announce the death of Mr. T. P. Robinson, J.P., in April last. He was on the Committee of the Wakefield Workshop for the Blind from its opening in 1901, and a most regular attendant. He took deep interest in all matters concerning the Blind, and every summer for fifteen years he has appealed for funds to send the blind people of Wakefield for an outing to the seaside.

3. We much regret that we were misled by a newspaper notice about Miss Mitchell and inserted the erroneous information in the last number of *The Blind*, paragraph 3. We are pleased to state that she is in active work, as usual, in connection with the Royal Institution for the Blind at Bradford.

4. It is with much pleasure that just on going to press we hear that Mr. Miles Priestley, Manager of the Royal Institution for the Blind at Bradford, and Mr. W. H. Thurman, Secretary of the Royal Institution for the Blind, Edgbaston, Birmingham, have been appointed Inspectors of Work for the Blind under the new Ministry of Health, and will assist the Advisory Committee in their deliberations. We are sure that our readers will concur with us that there could not have been a better choice made, as both men have had much experience amongst the Blind, are thoroughly practical, and are held in high esteem by all workers for this severely handicapped portion of the community.

5. Mr. W. J. Carter, of Worcester College for the Blind and of St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, passed moderations in the Lent term and is now reading for honours in classics.

6. Mr. Tylor, formerly of Worcester College for the Blind, is Captain of the Oxford University Chess Club, and he and Mr. Woodley, who is also of the same College, and has taken responsions, took two boards in a recent chess match between Oxford and Cambridge.

7. Mr. H. V. Spanner, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., the Music Librarian of the National Library for the Blind, continues to hold his monthly Musical Recitals with a view to making known the recent additions to the Music Section of the Library. These Recitals are now held at the National Institute for the Blind to suit the convenience of the larger number of music readers and to enable organ music to be included in the programme. The attendance at the last Recital held on June 17th numbered fifty-six, and suggestions and criticisms were as usual invited. Over 100 pieces of music and two text books, one of these, Matthey's "Musical Interpretation," have recently been transcribed by Mr. Spanner, most of these by request from readers. A very special effort is being made to increase the collection of violin music, for which there is a growing demand.

8. An entertainment was given on the evening of Thursday, June the 26th, at the Artists' Rifles Drill Hall, Duke's Road, St. Pancras, by the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind, 258, Tottenham Court Road, to their blind workers and staff. The proceedings were of the most happy description, and a feeling of unity was characteristic of the whole assembly.

The entertainment was made the occasion of the celebration of the completion of twenty-five years' faithful and untiring service on the part of Mr. Howard Mullins, the Association's Secretary and Manager, who was the recipient of several presentations and many hearty congratulations, though it is probable that the pleasure thus afforded him was surpassed by the warm and sincere expressions of affectionate regard on the part of those blind men and women among whom he has laboured, so strenuously, and whose condition he has done so much to

improve. Mr. Ormond Blyth, Chairman of the Association, presented him, on behalf of the Council, with a handsome silver bowl, and spoke in high terms of his splendid achievements. This was followed by the presentation of a silver inkstand on behalf of the blind workers in the several industrial departments—this ceremony being performed by Mr. Sangwine, one of the workers themselves, who, in a very able speech, paid a feeling tribute to the enterprise of Mr. Mullins, to which was due the steadily increasing prosperity of the Association. Next came the gift of a gold cigarette case, on behalf of the blind members of the staff, by Mr. Mowbray, who laid particular stress on the deep debt of gratitude which every blind worker (staff included) owed to the Association and to Mr. Mullins personally. Then came the presentation, by Mr. Davies, of a tobacco pouch, from four sighted brush finishers, who, though excluded from participation in the presentation of the silver inkstand, by reason of its inscription, as coming from his “blind friends,” were loyally desirous of testifying to their own sense of esteem and appreciation.

In his response, and not without some emotion, which all his efforts could not wholly conceal, Mr. Mullins spoke of his pleasure and gratification at so cordial a recognition of his work, though modestly disclaiming any special reason for such recognition, and left no doubt in the minds of his hearers as to the value he should always place upon the gifts he had just received, because of the kindly feeling and good-will of which they were the indisputable tokens. He further announced that the Council had commemorated the event by inaugurating a new fund by the gift of a thousand pounds to meet the case of those who lost their sight in adult life, and for whom little provision has hitherto been made, on condition that it should be called the “Howard Mullins Fund.” This announcement called forth what was perhaps the greatest applause of the evening, for, apart from the crying need for such a fund, it was felt that this was undoubtedly the best tribute to the splendid service which Mr. Mullins has rendered to the cause of the Blind. Offers of help were not slow in coming, for, within a very few minutes,

came one of twenty-five guineas from Mr. Hyde and another for the same amount from Mr. Taylor. This was followed by a further twenty-five guineas from Mr. Ormond Blyth, five guineas from Mr. Mullins, and three guineas from one of the blind workers of the Association. These subscriptions will, it is hoped, be the forerunners of many others, so that the good work thus begun may never be hampered by the lack of funds.

Speeches were made by Dr. Rosedale, of the London Association for the Blind, Mr. Wagg, of the Barclay Workshops for the Blind (who also presented Mr. Mullins with a silver match-box as a personal token of his regard), Mr. Hale, of the National Institute for the Blind, and Mr. Hyde. Mr. Blyth, as Chairman, did much to render the evening the success it proved, and Mr. le Sieur, to whom and his lady helpers a tribute of thanks was rendered for the arrangements and decoration of the hall, assured all present that the work had been a "labour of love." Sir Arthur Pearson and Mr. H. J. Wilson and many others sent letters of regret at their unavoidable absence, but expressed their hearty approval of the celebration and personal congratulations to Mr. Mullins.

The concert was a great success—the chief favourites perhaps being Mr. Wilson James and Miss Ruby Wilson, and Mr. Joseph Bull, the celebrated banjoist. Other artistes were Miss Nellie Walker, Mr. Bernard Tomkins, Mr. Walker Montague, and Miss Lena Capping. Three rousing cheers were given, and "He's a Jolly Good Fellow" sung, in honour of Mr. Mullins, the usual votes of thanks were accorded, and the proceedings came to an end with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem. Refreshments were distributed during the evening, and a souvenir programme was given to everyone present.

We are pleased to hear that Mr. Mullins has been appointed a member of the Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Health in the room of the late Mr. Hartley.

9. The annual examination of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held on May 3rd and 4th for the fourth year in

succession at the Swiss Cottage School for the Blind, London, N.W. 3, by kind permission of the Council of the School. The College is very grateful to the Council for allowing the examination to be held there again, and is much indebted to Mr. Ritchie for the excellent arrangements. The following is a list of those who took their certificates, and the respective honours obtained :—

Bloomfield, George William. Honours—Woodwork.

Burgess, Fannie. Honours—Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Hand Knitting.

Cassidy, Mrs. Lilian. Honours—Arithmetic.

Dawson, Elizabeth Williams. Honours—Practical Braille, Physical Training, Recreation, Hand Sewing.

Fry, Dorothea. Honours—Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching.

Lang, Jessie Stewart. Honours.—Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching, Type-writing.

Margetts, Florence Winifred. Honours—Practical Braille, Practice of Teaching, Theory of Education, Infant Teaching,

Purnell, Constance Irene. Honours—Arithmetic.

Purnell, Sylvester. Honours—Theoretical Braille, Practical Braille, Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching.

Tetley, Clara. Honours—Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic, Practice of Teaching,

Wainwright, Mrs. Gwen Dorothy Helen. Honours—Theoretical Braille, Arithmetic.

10. Mr. Henry Midwood, who was educated at the Yorkshire School for the Blind, has been appointed organist and choirmaster at St. Saviourgate Chapel, York.

11. We learn with regret that the Viscount Cobham has, on account of ill-health, resigned the chairmanship of the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester. It was only in our last number that we reported his resignation for the same cause from the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind.

12. We regret to hear that Sir Walter Prideaux has resigned the clerkship of the Goldsmiths' Company, an office he has held with marked ability and success since 1882. As he succeeded his father, so is he to be succeeded by his son, Mr. Walter T. Prideaux, who has been his assistant for 20 years. Sir Walter gave valuable evidence before the Departmental Committee on the Blind in regard to the administration of pensions, especially of those given to the Blind by the Company.

13. Mr. F. Marsh, who is blind, has just resigned his post of organist at St. Philip's, Bristol. He has held his appointment for fifty years, and the Vicar, the Rev. J. W. Dennis, said at the Easter vestry that he thought that was a record for a blind organist in any church.

14. We desire to commend to all our readers a book that not only those interested in the Blind, but also those who practically know nothing about them, ought, without fail, to read. The name of this book is "Victory over Blindness," by Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E., price 7/- net. Publishers, Hodder and Stoughton. It records how this victory was won by the men of St. Dunstan's, and how others may win it.

It is not too much to say that it is one of the most interesting and valuable contributions to "blind" literature that has ever appeared, and will greatly enlighten, and we hope convince to the contrary, those persons who hitherto had a fixed idea that blindness was an insuperable bar to any further usefulness or enjoyment in life. The book truly says: "There are so many people who seem to show by their actions that they verily believe that, when a man loses his sight, he also loses his hearing, his reason, and his whole individuality." This book soon disposes of that idea.

We confess to having been hardly able to put the book down when once we began it, as besides the excellent matter, the easy fluent style draws one on as much as if one were conversing with the writer instead of reading his words. The account of Sir Arthur's visit to the Western Front is enthralling. The

whole book is so good, that it seems almost invidious to make quotations, but we cannot forbear in conclusion extracting a few jewels.

"There is much that we cannot see; there is one thing we will not see, if we can help it, and that is the gloomy side of our lives. That is the gospel of St. Dunstan's."

"I determined that at least in my own dealings with the blind the word pity and the word affliction should not be used."

"It does not matter how self-reliant a blind man may become, he must always be, in some measure, dependent on others."

"Little things count a great deal when a blind man wishes to take his place as naturally as possible with others—as, for instance, the poise of the head when eating, a poise which becomes instinctive, if the table and the plate are mentally seen."

"I have often said to the blinded soldiers, "Blind people will never do anything to help themselves unless they try. Attempt everything that it is in the least possible for you to do."

"There is one thing that might be remembered by those who can see, and that is to speak when they enter a room where a blind man is—for the least word from a familiar voice is all the indication he needs as to who has come in, but without this he is left in doubt."

"The commonest mistake which is made by kindly folk who want to help a blind person along is to believe that because he cannot see he cannot move without support."

"St. Dunstan's was a place where the darkness that was inevitable was never allowed to pass into the gloom which is impenetrable."

"Surprisingly many people seem honestly to believe that loss of sight means diminished mental capacity, and appear totally unable to realise that, as a matter of actual fact, blindness improves rather than impairs one's mental attainments."

We are pleased to see that the National Institute for the Blind is sending a copy of Sir Arthur Pearson's book to every free library in the United Kingdom, as announced in *The Times*. We feel that there is so much of interest for the Blind in the

book that we hope the Executive Council of the Institute may see their way in due course to reproduce the book in Braille.

15. The Birmingham Royal Institution for the Blind is about to instal an organ built to specifications to be prepared by an Advisory Committee specially appointed, consisting of four experts, one of whom is Mr. C. W. Perkins, the Organist of the Birmingham Town Hall. The successes of the Birmingham Institution in regard to the pianoforte and organ have been most marked. It will be remembered that in the last issue of *The Blind* reference was made to the success of Donald Sparrow who, though not nineteen years of age, was successful in obtaining the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists, and in securing the "Turpin" Prize.

A promise of £1,000 has been made to the Committee of the Institution provided a like amount is raised by December 31st next, which promise the Committee have gratefully accepted. When the instrument is completed blind persons living in the Midlands and working for the Royal College of Organists' Examinations, will have the opportunity of using the organ.

16. The Hostel for Blind Women Workers at 1, Carpenter Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, was opened officially on Monday, 14th July, and will accommodate twenty-two. The Hostel will be a boon to the women workers employed in the shops under the control of the Committee, who have found it extremely difficult to secure board and lodgings.

17. On June 17th H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, opened the new premises of the Barclay Workshop for blind women at 21, Crawford Street, W. 1. The Princess referred to the useful work which will be done by enabling many blind girls to earn their livelihood. Mr. Godfrey Mowatt (Chairman), said that in future every blind girl in the workshop would receive a minimum wage of 26/6 a week. Sir Arthur Pearson proposed a vote of thanks to the Princess.

18. The following appeared in *The Times* of February 1st :—
 "In September, 1881, the late Sir Francis Campbell, who was the first principal of the Royal College for the Blind, Norwood, ascended Mont Blanc, and *The Times*, commenting upon this feat by a totally blind man, pointed out in a leading article that he had preached a gospel on behalf of the Blind from the highest pinnacle in Europe, which ought to rally to his aid the support of those retaining the blessing of sight. Although since that date over 600 students have graduated, the college has had to struggle on without endowment. The Carnegie Trustees in 1916, being satisfied that the work was "national in character and meets the needs of blind students from all parts of the United Kingdom," thus entitling it to "the fullest support from all quarters," offered to give £12,500 towards an endowment if the college authorities could raise £25,000. All that is now required to make the grant a reality is £2,000. The trustees limited the raising of this sum to December 31st, 1918, but the list is not yet closed, and it is hoped that all who value their sight will lend a hand in securing this offer. There is no doubt of the value of the pioneer work which this college has done for the Blind. In addition to introducing the various systems of physical training, the college was the first Institution to open a kindergarten department. It also comprises an elementary school, a secondary school, including the preparation of pupils for the university, a training college for teachers, a conservatory of music, and a school of pianoforte-tuning."

We are pleased to hear that the £25,000 have now been raised, and that the College Authorities can claim the £12,500 from the Trustees. This result must be very satisfactory to the Council of the College, as well as to the Principal, who has worked most assiduously to raise the £25,000.

19. The Examination of Candidates for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College, are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates, who must have reached the age of sixteen and be resident in England

or Wales, should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19.

20. The Annual Meeting of the North-West Counties Association for the Blind was held in Chester on April 3rd. The Annual Report and Financial statement were passed and ordered to be printed and circulated. The Ashton-under-Lyne Home Teaching Society is now affiliated with this association, and the Rev. J. Grant Bird is elected on the Executive Committee. There are 101 new cases, including Ashton-under-Lyne, and there have been 66 deaths.

21. In addition to the meetings of the Local Advisory Committees mentioned in our last number, par. 16, the following local Advisory Committees have been formed :—(a) The meeting for the Western Counties was held at Exeter on March 27th, when Mr. W. King was appointed chairman and Miss L. King, secretary; (b) the meeting for the North Western Counties was held at Chester on April 4th, when the Rev. F. W. Anderson was appointed chairman and Miss M. Comber secretary; (c) the meeting of the South Wales Counties was held at Swansea on April 9th, when Mr. J. Hall was appointed chairman and Mr. A. Matthey secretary; and (d) the meeting of the Eastern Counties was held at Cambridge on April 11th, when the Rev. Dr. E. C. Pearce was elected chairman and the Rev. C. E. Bolam secretary.

Mr. E. D. Macgregor, secretary of the Advisory Committee, attended all the meetings and made a general statement as to the origin of the Local Committees, the nature of the work to be done by them, and the conditions under which it would be done.

22. The Annual Meeting of the Council of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, on 22nd March, when there were present: Sir John Brickwood, Mr. G. M. Campbell, Mr. G. H. Gadsby, Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Miss D. L. Jones, Mr. B. P. Jones,

Mr. A. P. Pearson, Miss E. M. Ridley, Mr. J. M. Ritchie, Miss E. R. Scott, Mr. H. Stainsby, hon. registrar, Mr. W. E. Taylor, Mr. W. H. Thurman, Miss E. Walker Finlay, and Mr. H. J. Wilson, in the chair.

Letters regretting their inability to be present were received from Mr. G. C. Brown, Miss A. M. Harris Browne, Mr. W. H. Dixon, Mr. P. Gray, Mr. W. H. Illingworth, the Rev. H. Marston, Mr. T. H. Martin, Mr. J. H. Mines, Mr. H. W. P. Pine, Sir Washington Ranger, and Mr. S. E. Stevens.

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Sir John Brickwood, and resolved "That the report of the Committee and Financial Statement, as read, be received, adopted and entered upon the minutes, and that copies be forwarded to the President, Vice-Presidents, Officers, Members, Subscribers and other persons interested in the education of the blind."

It was moved by Mr. G. M. Campbell, seconded by Mr. W. E. Taylor, and resolved, "That Lady Campbell, Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Mr. B. P. Jones, Mr. W. H. Thurman, and the Chairman for the time being of the Special Schools Sub-Committee of the London County Council be and they are hereby re-elected Members of the Committee."

It was moved by Mr. J. M. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. W. H. Thurman, and resolved: "That Miss J. I. Falconer, Royal Institution for the Blind, Birmingham, be and she is hereby elected a Member of the Committee"; and it was further moved by Mr. J. M. Ritchie, seconded by Mr. G. M. Campbell, and resolved: "That Mr. A. J. Story, The Mount, Stoke, be and he is hereby elected a Member of the Committee."

It was moved by Mr. G. M. Campbell, seconded by Sir John Brickwood, and resolved: "That the best thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Honorary Officers for their valuable services during the past year and that Mr. H. J. Wilson, Sir Washington Ranger, Mr. Henry Stainsby, and Messrs. Drury, Thurgood & Co. be and they are hereby appointed Chairman, Solicitor, Registrar, and Auditors respectively for the current year."

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. A. P.

Pearson, and resolved "That Miss O. I. Prince, Secretary and Librarian of The National Library for the Blind, 18, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, be and she is hereby appointed a Member of the Council of the College."

It was moved by Miss M. M. R. Garaway, seconded by the Hon. Registrar, and resolved: "That the best thanks of the Meeting be accorded to the Chairman for his kindness in presiding at the present Meeting."

At the close of the Annual Meeting of the Council, a meeting of the Committee was held when there were present:—Mr. G. M. Campbell, Miss M. M. R. Garaway, Mr. B. P. Jones, Mr. J. M. Ritchie, Mr. H. Stainsby, hon. registrar, Mr. W. E. Taylor, Mr. W. H. Thurman, Mr. H. J. Wilson.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr. W. H. Illingworth, Mr. T. H. Martin, Mr. H. W. P. Pine, Sir Washington Ranger.

It was moved by the Hon. Registrar, seconded by Mr. W. H. Thurman, and resolved: "That Mr. H. J. Wilson be and he is hereby appointed Chairman for the ensuing year."

The Secretary of the Board of Examiners reported that the Board were of opinion that candidates for the Examination should enter for all necessary subjects at the first time of sitting. This was agreed to.

Mr. Ritchie reported that the Association of Teachers were taking steps to ensure that the board, residence, medical attendance, etc., of residential teachers should be generously estimated in connection with their superannuation.

Miss Garaway called the attention of the Committee to the obvious danger of the education of the blind passing from the Board of Education to the Ministry of Health. The Committee unanimously agreed that such a condition of affairs would be deplorable, and it was forthwith decided that a Sub-Committee consisting of the Chairman, Miss Garaway and Mr. Ritchie, be appointed to deal with this subject, and with this end in view to draft a resolution protesting against the education of the blind passing from the Board of Education to the Ministry of Health.

23. The 126th Annual Report of the Bristol Blind Asylum shows many interesting features and notes of progress. The workshops have had a successful and record year. The blind workers have been placed on a fixed wage scheme which gives general satisfaction, instead of the piece work system which often operated hardly on the least competent. The Hostel for blind women workers has been a great benefit in these days of high cost of living, and by the generosity of Mr. H. H. Wills a larger house has been put at the disposal of the Committee.

The Senior Bristol Home teacher, Mr. W. Berriman (blind), has died after forty years faithful and useful work amongst the Blind in the district.

24. We have received a copy of the 50th annual report of the Royal Dundee Institution for the Blind for the year ended March 31st, 1919. The results of the year are very satisfactory, and the sales of goods, the wages paid to blind workers are higher than on any previous occasion. "These results are," as the reports says, "largely due to the ability of the Manager, Mr. Colin Macdonald, who has held this post for thirty-eight years, after seven and a-half years service at the Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh, thus constituting a record for Britain in length of service in the cause of the Blind." We heartily congratulate Mr. Macdonald on this long and valuable service on behalf of the Blind, and we know how thorough and practical his work always has been. Such a record clearly merits some special notice, and we think it would be encouraging if there were some Central Society for the Blind which would grant a medal or some recognition in a case like Mr. Macdonald's.

25. The following is extracted from *The Times* of May 17th:—Dr. George Roy Fortune, a medical practitioner, was fined £50 at Newcastle-on-Tyne yesterday for having disobeyed an order of the Local Government Board requiring the notification of ophthalmia neonatorum. It was stated that his attention was called to a discharge from the eyes of a baby girl after birth, that he failed to notify the case, and that the child became blind.

26. On June 5th in the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law informed Mr. Clynes that after consultation with the Advisory Committee, the Government had decided to make, on an interim basis, grants to the Blind for certain purposes. These grants would be apportioned on the advice of the Committee pending necessary legislation to carry out the most important recommendations.

27. The editors of the *Church Messenger* have been in negotiation with the Braille Branch of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge to take over the management.

The Society will undertake it provided the present subscribers will agree to pay their subscriptions to the S.P.C.K.'s General Braille Fund, but these could, if so desired, be earmarked for the *Church Messenger*.

The printing and publishing would remain in the hands of The Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh, who have ably done the work since the magazine was started; and under the auspices of a Society of such high standing as the S.P.C.K., there should be every prospect of an increase in the circulation.

28. Miss Winifred Holt is still very busily at work amongst the Blind in France, and she writes us that there are now seven lighthouses, five in France. Eighteen blind men are employed with seeing men in seven different kinds of work with an electric company at Neuilly Plaisance. The French Government employs the Blind in moulding big vessels for chemicals. One of the blind men had fifty American soldiers whom he was training for the French Academy. One blind man passed the highest examination at the Sorbonne, and is now a teacher of the seeing. A one armed blind man has his class of twenty seeing soldiers in a course of electricity. We have received most interesting printed reports of the work carried on on behalf of the Blind in France.

29. It is with the greatest regret we hear that the work of the Argentine National Institution for the Blind at Buenos Aires

has been completely abandoned, and thus 8,000 blind people are left uncared for. In the summer of 1912 Mr. J. P. Mendoza paid a visit to this country, to the Continent, and to the United States of America in order to ascertain what was being done for the Blind, and on his return presented a scheme which became law. Plans of the building were approved, and a Commissioner was appointed to direct the Institution, and Mr. Mendoza was elected first President. Then in 1917 difficulties arose with the Government, and the President, and the Executive Committee resigned for reasons given in Vol. iv., No. 80, paragraph 13.

We have the pleasure of knowing Mr. Mendoza very well, and his zeal to help his blind countrymen, and we tender him our sincerest sympathy in the unfortunate ending of his well considered scheme, owing, as we are informed, to the action of his Government.

30. The Macmillan Company have just published Mr. Harry Best's important new book "The Blind: their condition and the work being done for them in the United States." It is the most comprehensive work on the subject that has yet been published in America. We hope to review it in our next number.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

Western Counties Association. The last few months have seen considerable activity in the area of this Association. There have been two meetings of the Local Advisory Committee, a meeting at Plymouth of the Association Committee, and meetings of several County Committees. The Association has sustained a great loss in the resignation of the Chairman. Mr. Richardson Cross has been the faithful friend and the skilful adviser of the Association from its formation. Neither the value of his services nor the regret of all concerned that he is not able to continue in office can be estimated. His place as Chairman is taken by Lieutenant-Colonel Metcalfe, D.S.O., Chief Constable of Somerset. Miss King, whose work for the Blind is well-known, has been appointed joint Honorary Secretar of the Association

LEEDS INCORPORATED INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND AND THE DEAF AND DUMB.

By Mr. William Harvey, Hon. Secretary.

Though not quite among the oldest of the Public Institutions of Leeds, the above has long filled a useful place among the charities of the City, and a few particulars of its history may be of interest to those concerned with the welfare of the Blind.

Though the last Report of the United Institution was the forty-second, the "Institution for the Industrious and Indigent Blind" was founded in 1866, and had it not been for the great War, the Committee would have wished adequately to celebrate the Jubilee.

The Institution owes its origin to the great interest taken in the Blind by Mr. John Wilkinson, of Harrogate, himself blind, who was instrumental in calling a public meeting in January, 1866, in the Philosophical Hall, Leeds, under the presidency of Canon Atlay, the Vicar of Leeds, when it was decided to commence workshops for the Blind. The first premises were in Basinghall Street, where for a few months six men, two boys, four women, and one girl were employed. Afterwards the workshops were moved to more suitable premises in Cookridge Street.

In November, 1873, a public meeting, under the chairmanship of the Mayor (Alderman H. R. Marsden), was held to consider the question of providing a building specially for the Institution, towards which an anonymous offer of £1,000 had been made. An appeal was made to the public, and an additional sum of £7,436 was subscribed. A property was purchased in Albion Street, including the warehouse and dwelling-house of the late Mr. Walter Stead, on which new buildings were erected, the cost, including the site, amounting to over £10,000. The Memorial Stone was laid on July 22nd, 1875, by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts. Among those who took part at the meeting were the Mayor, Sir Charles Lowther, Bishop Ryan, Rev. Canon Jackson, and Mr. Thomas Harvey.

The new buildings were opened on October 21st, 1877, when Sir Andrew Fairbairn presided, and addresses were delivered by the Mayor (Alderman Gallsworthy), Mr. Barran, M.P., Mr. Wheelhouse, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Gott, Vicar of Leeds, Rev. Dr. Ryan, Vicar of Bradford, and others. Mr. John Wilkinson, the venerable founder of the Institution for the Blind, though himself blind and infirm, travelled from Rugby to attend the meeting. (Mr. Wilkinson died in 1881, aged 81).

Much of the success of the early years of the Institution was due to the earnest efforts of Mr. John Wilkinson, who was appointed President in 1873, and of Mr. Wm. E. Gott, who was Hon. Secretary from 1867 to 1872, and of Mr. Arthur Lupton, Canon Jackson, Mr. Fredk. Baines, and Mr. T. Harvey, members of the Committee

The new buildings provided much needed accommodation for the growing departments of basket and brush making and chair-caning, a retail shop, and for some years a school for blind children, with rooms for boarders and staff.

In 1876 an amalgamation took place with the Yorkshire Association for the adult deaf and dumb, which had been carried on for many years, thus forming the United Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb.

In 1880 the Blind Visiting Society was amalgamated with the Institution and a number of ladies elected on the General Committee, whose services have been of great benefit in the work of the United Institution.

For several years a school for blind children was held at the Institution, and one for deaf children on other premises, until the Leeds School Board took over the work, and later erected the commodious building in Blenheim Walk as a boarding and day school for blind and deaf children.

In anticipation of the amalgamation with the Association for the deaf and dumb, provision was made in the new buildings in Albion Street for a large room for religious services and lectures and a reading-room for the deaf.

From time to time various additions have been made to the premises, a new wing for brush-making, necessitated by the

introduction of boring and finishing machinery; a new storey for the female brushworkers; the purchase of adjoining premises from the executors of the late Mr. Richard Boston for the introduction of mat-making; the provision of a library and lecture room for the Blind and a billiard and recreation room for the deaf. Appeals made from time to time for funds for these extensions and alterations have met with a generous response.

The Institution was originally founded to provide employment for indigent and industrious blind persons, and commenced with a total of thirteen workers, who were trained in brush and basket-making and chair-caning. Ten years later the first Report of the United Institution, 1876-7, shows that there were twenty-six workers, with a turn-over of £3,486. In 1896-7 the workers numbered forty-two, and the turn-over was £5,455. In 1917-18 the last Report shows that the number of workers was eighty-nine (including nine deaf), and the turn-over had increased to £15,825.

In addition to the industrial side of the work much time is spent in caring for the aged sick and infirm, the three visitors calling upon these in their own homes, or in the hospitals and Institutions. There are 442 names of blind persons on the register, and new cases are constantly coming under the notice of the visitors. In some cases the blind are taught to read in Braille, thus bringing fresh interest into their lives. The Lending Library is much appreciated. It contains 2,967 volumes, in addition to magazines, &c., and during the past year, 1917-18, 3,837 volumes were issued. Many ladies kindly write books in Braille for the Library, and additions are made from the income of the "Leeds Embossed Books Fund," a fund raised for the purpose a few years ago with the help of Sir Arthur Pearson and the National Institute for the Blind.

The welfare of the adult deaf mutes of Leeds is under the care of the Superintendent, Mr. W. Scholey, who succeeded Mr. Joseph Moreton in 1909. The latter had given devoted service to the interests of the deaf and as teacher of the children and superintendent of the deaf department for nearly thirty years. Assistance is given to the deaf in finding employment,

and their interests are cared for in other directions, including visits to the sick and aged in their own homes.

The work of the United Institution has been carried on by a succession of earnest men and women, both members of the Committee and members of the staff, and it is remarkable that there have been comparatively few changes either in the Honorary or paid officers of the Institution.

The post of Hon. Treasurer was held by Mr. Henry Oxley from 1867 to 1889, and by Mr. Arthur P. Baines from 1890 to 1917. Mr. H. Macpherson followed for one year, and on his leaving Leeds, Mr. Arthur Lambert succeeded in 1918.

There have only been three Honorary Secretaries, men and women, namely,

Mr. W. Ewart Gott	...	...	1867-1872.
Mr. Thomas Harvey	..	...	1873-1884.
Mr. William Harvey	...	...	1885 —
Miss Glover	...	...	1880-1889.
Miss E. M. Prior	...	...	1889-1914.
Miss Margaret E. Thompson	...	...	1914 —

Similarly there have been three Managers and three Superintendents of the deaf and dumb department.

MANAGERS.

Mr. Joseph Stenson	...	...	1867-1879.
Mr. P. R. Lowther	...	...	1879-1889.
Mr. J. B. Meeson	...	...	1889 —

SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE DEAF DEPARTMENT.

Mr. James Foulston	...	...	1875-1879.
Mr. Joseph Moreton	...	...	1880-1909.
Mr. Walter Scholey	...	..	1909 —

In 1917 the Institution was incorporated, thus rendering the appointment of Trustees unnecessary.

Looking to the future, there can be no doubt that a wider sphere of usefulness lies before the Blind Institutions of the

country. Brought into closer touch with the Government through the recent appointment by the Local Government Board of the Advisory Committee, further development and extension will follow. Extension of workshop accommodation in the large centres of population and the development of work for the Blind in country districts will demand the help of the younger generation of workers, and we cannot doubt that many will respond to the call and devote themselves to the welfare of a deserving section of the community who are deprived of the blessings of sight and hearing.

The Blind.

VOL. V.

No. 88.

OCTOBER 20TH. 1919.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Single copies of "The Blind," price 7d., post free, can be obtained from Mr. Henry J. Wilson, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

EDITORIAL.

"For the last time" and "good-bye" are often (though not always) sad things to say, and in this particular instance we feel their sadness to the utmost. With this number of *The Blind* twenty-two years of Editorship are completed, and owing to recent serious illness and the increasing burden of the years, necessitating alas! much work to be laid down, we feel that the time has come to say farewell to our readers, though with infinite regret. We have tried, as far as in us lay, to supply the best and latest information of the work being carried on in the "blind" world, and to record the achievements of the Blind and those of their friends and helpers with pride and gratitude, but we are very conscious how often and how far we have failed in our efforts, and how many have been our shortcomings, for which we can only ask pardon. We have many friends to whom we must tender our heartiest thanks for their kindness in sending us notes of the doings in local centres, which were of the greatest possible assistance to us in carrying on the Magazine.

We give in this number an Index for the last two years, which thus completes the Index of the whole issue of *The Blind* up-to-date. And so, as last times *must* come to us all in this ever changing world, we bid our kind readers and helpers farewell, with prayer and every good wish for the unceasing development of the great work they are carrying on of turning darkness into light, a work we humbly and reverently commend

to the blessing of God, in the sure and certain hope that in His Light we shall indeed see Light, both here and hereafter.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. Mr. P. M. Evans, Clerk to the Clothworkers' Company, has been appointed Chairman of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association (formerly Union) for the Blind in the room of Mr. Henry J. Wilson, who has resigned, having been Chairman ever since the formation of the Association in 1907.

2. We regret to hear that the Rev. R. C. Swayne recently lost his wife, who was drowned whilst attempting to save the lives of two girls, in one case successfully. Mr. Swayne was at the College for the Higher Education of the Blind at Worcester, and Keble College, Oxford.

3. Full obituary notices of Mr. Andrew Carnegie have appeared in the Press, and therefore we do not propose to write another, but we regret that no attention was drawn to the fact that liberal provision had been made by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust for blind readers by a grant to the National Institute for the Blind for the provision of Braille and Moon plates, and to the National Library for the Blind for the purchase of new premises.

4. Mr. Arthur Wakerley, J.P., has generously offered an acre of land, eminently suitable for the erection of a new workshop for the Blind thereon, as a gift to the Leicester Institution for the Blind. In 1916 it was found that the accommodation in the Granby Street premises was not only inadequate for the work, but quite unsuitable owing to the utilisation of rooms for the purposes for which they were not constructed. Plans of the new building have been prepared, and it is hoped that the new workshops will soon be erected.

5. A new Hostel for blind women workers, the gift of Mr. J. K. Waddilove to the Royal Institution for the Blind, Bradford, was opened on July 24th by Mr. Frederick Priestman at Oak Hurst, Oak Avenue, Bradford. The large residence was formerly occupied by Mr. Waddilove, and its value is put at between £2,000 and £3,000. There is accommodation for twenty-four inmates. In declaring the Hostel open, which is to be called the Waddilove Hostel, Mr. Priestman stated that it was proposed to remove the Bradford Workshop for the Blind from Darley Street and Piccadilly to Frizinghall, where the Committee had two acres of land. Mr. and Mrs. Priestman gave £1,000 to the Hostel.

6. The Examination of Candidates for Gardner Trust Scholarships of the annual value of £40, tenable at the Royal Normal College, are held three times a year, in the first week of March, July, and December. Intending Candidates, who must have reached the age of sixteen and be resident in England or Wales, should apply for forms of application and return them not later than 15th February, June, and November respectively, to the Principal of the College, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19.

7. Back copies of *The Blind* can be obtained from the Editor except Nos. 16, 79, and 87—price 4d. each copy, post free. Early application is invited, as there are several numbers of which there is only one copy.

8. The following books in Braille have been added to the Oxford Public Library, viz., Cicero's *De Lege Manilia*, and Descartes' *Meditations* (translated by Veitch).

9. The annual Prize Festival of the Royal Normal College for the Blind was held on Wednesday, July 23rd, when the chair was taken by Lord Shaw, of Dunfermline, and the prizes were distributed by Mrs. Danckwerts. There was a good attendance.

10. The annual speech day in connection with the College for the Higher Education of the Blind, Worcester, took place on July 10th, when Sir Arthur Pearson presided. There were over thirty old students present. The day commenced with a service in the gymnasium and an address by the Rev. N. F. McNeile. The annual gathering began with an organ recital by Mr. Wolstenholme.

The Headmaster, in his report, gave a cordial welcome to the new Chairman of the Governors (Sir Arthur Pearson), in the room of Viscount Cobham, who had to resign on account of ill-health. He said they had been able to develop the curriculum of the school. They had established a higher commercial section, and he felt certain there was a large future for such a section at the College. He pointed out that one of their difficulties was to find suitable careers for the boys after they left College, and it was with the idea of widening the choice of vocations for the students that the higher commercial section had been set up. It would not interfere with the other sections of the school work. During the year they accepted a grant from the Board of Education. It was a special grant due to the exceptional circumstances in which they had found themselves. Hitherto inspections by the Board had been dependent upon invitation by the Governing Body, but it would now be compulsory, and the experts of the Board would make suggestions, and keep the school from getting into a rut. They had been compelled to increase the number of students. Last year they had twenty-one or twenty-two, and thought they were quite full, but the demand for the education given by the College was growing and becoming more insistent, and they had been compelled to accommodate as many as twenty-seven. He had to use the hospital as a dormitory, but that was a risk that could not be taken in the spring, and it was essential that they should extend at once. They might be quite certain they would extend next term. The out of school departments continued to grow, and meetings, lectures and concerts had been held, not only on Saturday evenings, but in mid-week. In regard to chess, they had suffered much because they lost the whole of the Champion-

ship team, who had gone to the University or other callings. Rowing was going ahead, and they now had six fours upon the river. This was their ideal recreation and sport, and one in which they were able to compete with other public schools on nearly equal conditions. Rowing had been handicapped by lack of proper implements, but they now had a boat, and he acknowledged the help given by Mr. Mowatt in raising the necessary money, and intimated that they hoped soon to have a new boathouse. The Headmaster then mentioned successes of Old Boys. R. C. Mayes, after a remarkably short period at College, and a shorter acquaintance in Greek, was successful in passing responsions at Oxford University. D. C. Green and T. E. Hedges passed musical examinations, the former the Higher Local Pianoforte Examination T.C.L., and the latter the Elementary Pianoforte Examination of the Associated Board. E. S. Woodley passed responsions at St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford, and gained representative colours for chess. W. J. Carter passed in moderations. T. H. Tylor passed his preliminary law examination, and was Captain of his University chess team. W. V. Miede and E. H. Boyce passed the first year's examination in Arts at Hatfield College, Durham. He said they were grateful to the National Institute for the Blind and to Gardner's Trust for securing scholarships for the boys at the Universities. It was most desirable that every boy who was fitted should go to the University. A great deal of help was required in this matter because the expenses of blind students were much greater than in the case of ordinary students owing to the need for an amanuensis and readers. Mr. Brown thanked the staff, specially mentioning Mr. Cooper, and then referred to the impetus given to the study and performance of Shakespeare by the addition to the staff of Mr. S. L. Leon. He expressed Mrs. Brown's gratitude for the great help rendered to her during the year by the domestic staff in the time of the influenza epidemic, and remarked upon the improved position attained in the matter of text books. He expressed indebtedness to the Governors, especially mentioning Mr. Mowatt and Canon Southwell.

Sir Arthur Pearson, in a highly interesting address, urged the value of the commercial section, emphasising the examples of success achieved in business by men who had been trained at St. Dunstan's. He said that shorthand and type-writing were of great value to the blind boy going into business. He urged that "we people who cannot see very well should forget the things we cannot do, and give our heart and soul to the things we can do." They could not play cricket and lawn tennis, but they could row and swim. He announced that the College was soon to have a swimming bath and a boathouse, and later on an assembly hall. He mentioned that it was proposed to nominate as Governors Captain Vincent Ranger, a son of Sir Washington Ranger, and Captain Ian Fraser, who was at Malvern when war broke out and did well there, but lost his sight in the war. He conveyed to his hearers some idea of the success of the work at St. Dunstan's, and entertained them with stories about the men and their experiences. At the meeting of the Old Boys' Union Mr. Dodd was appointed Secretary, and Mr. Mowatt Sports Secretary. A subscription of one guinea entitles an old student to life membership of the Union.

After Sir Arthur's address, scenes from "Macbeth" were given by the students.

After the distribution the company were entertained to tea in the College Grounds.

On July 11th the Regatta was held. The following were the results:—

College Old Boys 1st four beat St. Dunstan's (Officers) by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths.

The College 2nd four beat the Old Boys 2nd four by two lengths.

The Pair Oars, present boys, was won by G. FitzGibbon and J. Hulton by four lengths.

The College Pair Oar beat St. Dunstan's by three lengths.

In the Double Sculling the College was beaten by St. Dunstan's.

In the Single Sculling for present students, H. H. Coldwell won by three lengths.

In the Single Sculls St. Dunstan's beat Worcester College by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths.

In the Pair Oars Worcester Old Boys were beaten by St. Dunstan's by six lengths.

On Saturday, July 12th, the regatta was continued, and there were six races, including St. Dunstan's officers against the 1st four of the College, which was a well contested race throughout, the former winning by three quarters of a length, and the race for the Mowatt Cup between the first four of the College and the first four of Old Students, in which the former, the holders of the Cup, won by two lengths.

11. A meeting of the Committee of the College of Teachers of the Blind was held at 53, Victoria Street, on Saturday, July 12th, when there were present Miss Garaway, Messrs. G. M. Campbell, A. P. Pearson, J. M. Ritchie, Henry Stainsby, W. H. Thurman, and Henry J. Wilson in the chair.

Letters regretting their inability to be present were read from Miss Falconer, the Rev. St. Clare Hill, and Messrs. W. H. Illingworth, B. P. Jones, T. H. Martin, A. J. Story, and Sir H. L. Stephen.

It was reported that the pamphlet on arithmetic notation had been finally revised by the Sub-Committee appointed for that purpose and new examples prepared by Mr. Emblen. This revision necessitated the preparation of three new sheets or diagrams. It was agreed that the pamphlet, as revised, should be printed after proofs had been sent to the Sub-Committee for their approval.

The Examiners' report for 1919 was read and ordered to be entered in the minutes. The following were elected Examiners for 1920, viz., Miss J. I. Falconer, Miss Garaway, Messrs. A. P. Pearson, J. M. Ritchie, and W. M. Stone.

The resignation of Mr. H. W. P. Pine as a member of the Committee, on account of ill-health, was accepted with much regret and warm appreciation of his services. The resignation

also of Lady Campbell, as a member of the Committee, on account of her continued absence in the United States of America was accepted with deep regret, and it was unanimously resolved to elect her as one of the Vice-Presidents of the College. It was resolved that Miss E. E. Morley and Mr. G. C. Brown, Headmaster of Worcester College for the Higher Education of the Blind be, and they are hereby elected members of the Committee in the room of Lady Campbell and Mr. Pine resigned.

12. The report of 1918 of the Hepburn Starey Blind Aid Society shows that the good work has been steadily carried on. "With the exception of six evenings when raids were imminent, the weekly gatherings have regularly been held, the exceptional six breaks being the very first for over fifty years." These weekly meetings on Thursday evenings are much enjoyed by the 400 members of the Society. On the 14th of August all the members and their guides were invited to a fête at the Royal Botanic Gardens from 2.30 p.m. to 8 p.m., as it was found impossible to provide the usual most enjoyable day at the seaside.

13. A Committee has been formed in Ealing and Acton with the intention of founding a club-room or "parlour" where recreation and industry may bring blind and sighted persons into closer touch, where Braille and other classes may be held, books be exchanged, concerts, outings, &c., arranged, and sociable intercourse made more possible in a variety of ways. The scheme has been set on foot in connection with the Metropolitan Association for the Blind by Miss G. E. Dixon, 48, Ranelagh Road, Ealing, W.5, and on June 4th Miss Harris Browne gave an account of her excellent organisation for women knitters in their own homes. The "Pukka Parlour" is at 60, Mattock Lane, South Ealing, and was formally opened in July by the Rev. W. G. Allcock. It is intended to give instruction in machine knitting, chair-caning, and mat-making.

14. We give below a few experiences of the Secretary of Gardner's Trust for the Blind. He has not infrequently been addressed as "The Rev.," and among other descriptions as "Mr. Blind," "Secretary of the Gardener's Institution," "The Garden of Trust," "Gardener's Institution for the Blind, Covent Garden, London," &c.

Perhaps the shortest letter received, and it must be admitted it was well to the point, was, "Sir, please send me some of Mr. Gardner's money. Yours truly, X. X."

On one occasion a lady drove to the office and sent up the footman to enquire whether the Secretary was in, and as the reply was in the affirmative she came hurriedly up the stairs, and quite short of breath, said: "I have only just heard that £300,000 have been left for blind gardeners, and as mine has gone blind I wish to apply for his share." On an explanation by the Secretary and in pointing out if the report were true, how greatly blind gardeners—a very limited number—would be benefited, the lady thoroughly entered into the joke, notwithstanding her disappointment.

A blind man used to stand near St. Martin's Church, Trafalgar Square, with a bag and selling bootlaces. When he had to get something to eat in the middle of the day, he used to leave his bag in the office of the engineer of the waterworks in Trafalgar Square, and he was asked to sell any bootlaces, if they should be required during the blind man's absence. This happened on one occasion, and the engineer, taking up the bag to get a pair of laces, found it very heavy, and on looking into it saw some sovereigns. Thereupon he sent a special messenger to the Secretary of the Trust asking him to go to the office as soon as possible. The result was that over £100 were found in the bag in sovereigns, wrapped up in paper and pieces of dirty rag. How the money had accumulated was never explained, but the blind man was persuaded to place it in the Post Office Savings Bank, and not to run such great risk of losing it all by carrying it about in his bag.

In 1895 the offices of the Trust were removed from one Poets' Corner (now alas! razed to the ground) to 53, Victoria

Street. The day after the removal a clergyman went to the old office and apparently knocked and rang for some time, without getting a reply, as the Secretary received a very indignant letter afterwards stating that the writer could get no reply to his knocks, and he concluded the letter by the remark, "I suppose you are one of those not-at-home Secretaries who are seldom at the office, especially when wanted."

On one occasion on a summer holiday on Dartmoor the Secretary met a blind man, and entered into conversation with him. He was very confiding, and said that he was receiving parish relief for his maintenance. On speaking of Charities for the Blind, he added, "Well, I get £10 a year from one Charity, but they don't know about the Parish Relief, or else I should lose the pension. I hope you be'nt from London?" On the Secretary informing him that he was, the man added, "Now don't you tell those folk in London about it."

In the Invalids Walk at Bournemouth there was once a blind man sitting at the edge of the walk reading aloud verses from the Bible in Moon's type. After watching the man for some time, and being satisfied that he was not doing badly by doles from passersby, the Secretary approached him, and, after some conversation, asked him whether he had applied to any of the Charities for the Blind in London, to which he replied, "O! yes; but I can't get anything out of them." Being asked whether he had applied to Gardners' Trust he said, "That is as bad as any of them. I have a letter in my pocket from Mr. Jones, the Secretary." Being requested to show the letter, the Secretary remarked that the letter was signed by Henry J. Wilson. Whereupon the blind man said, "Ah! I knew it was one of those common names, but thought it was Jones!"

15. A very interesting article appeared in the Cornhill Magazine for June, entitled "The Father of the R.A.M.C." The father was Assistant Surgeon Sandford Moore, who, in August, 1870, received a telegram from the War Office with the words "Are you prepared to serve with a Red Cross Ambulance in France?" He accepted the offer at once and started off by

the earliest train next morning. This father of the Corps has been totally blind for over thirty years from overstrain of work, and in 1886 the following interesting letter was written to him by Miss Florence Nightingale: "I learnt with the greatest grief and sympathy that you have lost the eyesight of which you made so good a use. We all lament your retirement from the service, and we all thank you for the good you have done us, and which will be carried on by so many you have trained. But this is not all, nothing will make me believe that your activity will be lessened by this great disaster of blindness. Rather will it set itself to work to devise fresh means, independent of eyesight, to do us good, Mr. Fawcett was an example of a man who did this and who was more active for good even after than before he became blind. . . . I wish I could give you one of my poor eyes, but they would be of little use to you; they are waxing old, and painful from overwork, though I still get service out of them."

16. The Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Health has issued a letter, dated September 9th, to the Secretaries of all the County Associations for the Blind, to the effect that in future the Minister will look to the Associations to secure the registration of all blind persons within their respective areas. All new cases, and all corrections of old cases, should be transmitted to the Minister through the Secretary to the appropriate Association. A monthly return should be made accordingly, giving the following particulars:—

1. New cases of blindness.
2. Deaths of blind persons already registered.
3. Changes of address, giving both old and new addresses.
4. Children leaving school, their occupation (if any).
5. Persons formerly unemployed, who have found work.
6. Changes of occupation.
7. Serious invalidity, such as deafness, paralysis, mental deficiency, etc.

A supply of forms which should only be used for new cases, will be supplied on application. Information under headings 2-7 should be forwarded separately on foolscap paper, and wherever

necessary a "nil" return should be furnished under each. Strict compliance with this request is regarded as essential.

The names and addresses of the Secretaries to the Associations (formerly Unions) are as follows:—Northern Counties Association, Miss Bramhall, 17, Artillery Street, Deansgate, Manchester. Eastern Counties Association, the Rev. C. E. Bolam, St. Mary Magdalene's Rectory, Lincoln. Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association, Miss D. L. Jones, Denison House, 296, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1. North-Western Counties Association, Miss M. Comber, 9, Abbey Street, Chester. Western Counties Association, Miss King, "Seymour," Knowles Hill, Newton Abbot. Midland Counties Association, Mrs. Thurman, 82, Carless Avenue, Harborne, Birmingham. South Wales, etc., Counties Association, Joseph Hall, Esq., Grosvenor House, Swansea.

17. Some years ago a party of friends used to go summer after summer to Pontresina, and at breakfast in the hotel a word was given out for the visitors to define. Some of these definitions are so good that we think they may be interesting to our readers, and therefore we give a few:—

Olive. A fruit very well in its way on the table, the *branches* often a nuisance "round about it."

Club. (a) Used by savages to kill each other, and by civilised man to kill time.

(b) A refuge from domestic storms.

(c) The weapon with which the idle man performs the Herculean task of slaying his hydra-time.

(d) A coop for henpecked husbands.

Man. (a) A necessary evil (b) the end of woman.

Woman. Made after man at the first, and after him ever since.

Mountaineer. One who climbs mountains with his feet by day, and with his tongue by night.

Slippers. Tourists on the glacier.

Temptation. An elderly spinster asleep under the mistletoe.

Chivalry. (a) Recognition of the truth that "The woman is the glory of the man."

(*b*) Strength ennobled by reverencing the weak.

Impulse. A prompter without a manager, yet often giving the right cue.

Jealousy. (*a*) The big sin of little souls (*b*) the unnatural offspring which stifles its mother Love (*c*) a hateful offspring of a loving parent.

Dancing.

The poetry of motion
Which produces vigorous prose,
When Reversers will reverse
On other people's toes.

Ink. The coloured slave that waits on thought.

Proverbs. (*a*) Potted wisdom (*b*) an ocean of matter in a drop of language.

Pen. (*a*) The tongue of the absent (*b*) a loan often from one goose to another.

Bachelor. (*a*) Half a man, minus the better half (*b*) Freedom's slave.

Holiday. "Stand at ease" to mind and body.

Influence. (*a*) Our shadow for good or ill upon the lot of others (*b*) individuality converted into force.

Toil. The life of man.

Toilette. The life of woman.

THE UNIONS OF INSTITUTIONS, SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES FOR THE BLIND.

A meeting of the Executive Council of the Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Union of Societies for the Blind was held at Denison House, London, on July 11th, when there were present Mr. Evans in the chair, Miss Harris Browne, Sir John Brickwood, Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Wagg, Mr. Guy M. Campbell, and Miss D. M. Jones. Regrets for inability to attend the meeting were received from Mrs. Le Mesurier, Miss Burnett, and Mr. Lempriere. It was reported that 887 tickets for theatres had been distributed so far this year, and that the recipients wrote warm letters of thanks. The opening of a Parlour for the Blind by Miss Dixon, of Ealing, was also

reported, to which reference is made in paragraph 13, and the successful organisation of Sussex by Miss Horne, and of Essex by Mrs. Emery. Proof of the annual report for 1918 was submitted and approved with one or two slight amendments.

It was unanimously resolved that the name of the Union be changed to "The Metropolitan and Adjacent Counties Association for the Blind."

A letter from Mr. H. J. Wilson was read tendering his resignation as Chairman and member of the Association, as on account of his recent severe illness he was relinquishing much of his work by his doctor's orders, and it was resolved "that it is with the deepest and most profound regret the Council of the Union learn that Mr. Wilson feels compelled, on medical advice, to tender his resignation as Chairman. His services in assisting in the formation of the Union and in guiding and directing its activities since its inception have been invaluable, and the Council very gratefully place on record their indebtedness and appreciation. It is the earnest hope of the Council that his health will soon be completely restored and, that though he feels unable to continue to act as Chairman, the Council will still have the benefit of his experience and sound advice."

The Hon. Secretary was requested to forward the resolution with a covering letter expressing the hope that Mr. Wilson would attend meetings of the Council whenever possible.

A letter from Miss Horne was read tendering her resignation as Organising Secretary, and the resignation was received with sincere regret. It was decided to place on record the Council's appreciation of the earnest and enthusiastic way in which Miss Horne had promoted the interests of the Union during the time she acted as Organising Secretary for the Counties. Miss Winter was appointed to take Miss Horne's place. On the motion of Mr. Guy Campbell, seconded by Mr. Stuart Johnson, Mr. Evans was unanimously elected Chairman in the place of Mr. Wilson.

The invitation from Mr. Wagg to hold the next meeting of the Council at Crawford Street was accepted with thanks.

This concluded the business.

CHELTEHHAM AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND.

By Miss Charlotte Whateley, Hon. Secretary.

This Society was instituted in July, 1858. It was started in a very small way, with only two workrooms, where basket-work, sewing, music, and reading in Moon type were taught. Women and children were then admitted to the School.

As time went on, the work increased so steadily, that larger premises were taken, and these—our present ones—have been improved, and enlarged from time to time, in order to meet growing requirements. In 1876, a Superintendent was engaged from the Exeter Blind Institution, as master of the workshop, and each development was made on thoroughly sound and practical trade principles. Much of the success that has happily attended our efforts has been largely due to the energy of the late Capt. Berthon, who joined the Committee in 1894, and under his administration the work of the Institution steadily developed. He acted as Trade Manager and Hon. Treasurer until his death in 1918, sparing no pains to further in every way the interests of the Blind, who, by his death, have suffered a very grievous loss.

Basket work of every description is the chief industry of our Institution; the men make suitable baskets for motors, bicycles, Kypes for the Corporation, and laundry hampers, while gardeners, coal merchants, and all persons using hampers of every description find what they need at the shop adjoining the workrooms. Repairs are also very skilfully done to mats and baskets, while a stock of brushes, mats, leathers, and firewood is on sale at all times. Chairs are resealed with rush, cane, and wicker.

We have established a good connection for orders far and near; our goods go to all parts of the country, especially the baskets, ornamental and useful, which find a ready sale at Bazaars.

In pre-war days we used to exhibit our work at "The Art

and Crafts" at the Albert Hall and other Exhibitions, where we often gained prizes and high commendations; the work of our Institution was always acknowledged to be of a good order.

In common with every other Charity, funds are badly needed to carry on the work, which is somewhat inadequately supported, considering its extreme usefulness, and the sad need of those for whom the benefits are intended. The general expenses are much increased, and the universal demand for larger wages has encouraged the blind workers to claim a higher remuneration for their work than is quite in accordance with the amount they are able to produce. To meet this demand, and in consequence of the increase in the price of material, our goods are much dearer than they were formerly.

We are fortunate in retaining the valuable services of our Master and of our Saleswoman, the latter has been with us many years, and her interest in the welfare of the Institution is untiring and devoted.

Many of the blind men are no longer young; some have been with us for years, a larger number are married men living at home, as in the Institution no provision is made for board or lodging for the workers. We have at present seventeen men and four women in the workrooms; some are only able to do very little work that is remunerative.

The Society is managed by a Committee which meets monthly, when reports are received from the officials. A very able successor to the late Capt. Berthon has been found in Mr. Bagnall; he will carry on the duties of Trade Manager and Hon. Treasurer, and under his supervision we hope for further developments in the work.

There is a small Benevolent Fund which is often found useful in helping cases of special need, and the Institution is in touch with the other Charitable Agencies in the town, and also with Gardner's Trust for the Blind.

We have a good Library, which is greatly appreciated by the more intelligent of the workers.

September, 1919.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

Two very important and interesting documents have been printed and issued since our last number appeared, viz. (a) The first Annual Report of the Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Blind for 1918-1919 presented to the President of the Local Government Board, and (b) the Circular and Regulations and Rules issued by the Ministry of Health last August

The present members of the Advisory Committee are :—

Mr. Godfrey Locker-Lampson, M.P., Chairman,

Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Guy M. Campbell.

Mrs. Wilton Phipps.

Mr. P. M. Evans.

*Mr. Miles Priestley.

Miss Garaway.

Mr. Ben Purse.

Mr. J. B. Lawford, F.R.C.S.

Mr. R. D. Smith,

Mr. G. F. Mowatt.

Mr. Henry Stainsby.

oMr. Howard Mullins.

*Mr. W. H. Thurman.

Mr. Alexander Pearson.

Mr. H. C. Warrilow.

Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., G.B.E.

NOTE.—*Have recently been appointed Government Inspectors, and are, therefore, no longer members of the Committee. O has resigned.

On the original Committee Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., was Chairman during most of the period under review in the Report, but subsequently he resigned; and Miss E. W. Austin and Mr. Charles Hartley, original members, have died. Mr. E. D. Macgregor, of the Ministry of Health, has been Secretary from the formation of the Committee, and his valuable services are much appreciated, as is shown in par. 51 of the Report.

(A) The report on the work undertaken by the Committee is for the period ended March 31st, 1919. The Committee were appointed—as recommended by the Departmental Committee which reported in July, 1917—in December, 1917, by the then President of the Local Government Board (Lord Downham) and have held nineteen meetings. Their first duty was to advise on the nature of the provision for the betterment of the Blind, and to consider how best a portion of the expenditure

involved could be met by local contributions apart from national funds. Proposals are, therefore, made, but the Committee regard with the gravest concern the omission of arrangements for giving weekly allowances to the unemployable Blind in their own Homes. This omission is due to very strong representations from the Government as to the inherent difficulties in making weekly allowances until the necessary legislation has been passed. The proposals, therefore, are a temporary instalment, dictated by expediency, and are made only on the understanding that the vital matter of the unemployable needy Blind will be dealt with by the Government at the earliest possible moment. One of the first objects to which the Committee directed their attention was to draw up a list of approved Institutions, Societies and Agencies for the Blind, and this list has been issued to the public by the Local Government Board. A comprehensive register of the individual blind persons has been compiled, and most interesting figures are given in appendix B. Table i. shews the geographical distribution of blind persons according to age, period, and condition as to employment. The unemployable group of 11,895 is the largest. Table ii. shows the distribution of employed blind persons according to occupations. In the Workshops for the Blind there are employed 1,127 men and 458 women, while there are under training 396 men and 311 women. Table iii. shews the distribution of blind persons according to physical or mental defects, and Table iv. shows the same distribution according to age and employment groups. Table v. shews the distribution of school age group according to mental and physical defects.

Workshops for the Blind are dealt with under four headings, viz. (a) Augmentation of wages (b) continuity of employment (c) co-operation between workshops, and (d) workshop accounts. As regards (a) very careful consideration has been given, and the systems of wage augmentation now in force in the several Workshops for the Blind were reviewed. It is a truism to say that the output of the blind worker varies according to his training, his individual capacities and his opportunities, and that only very exceptionally can he approximate his

output at all closely to that of the sighted worker in the industries usually practised by the Blind. A Workshop for the Blind is, therefore, faced with the necessity of making provision for all the variety of wage-earning capacities among its employees. It is essential that any system of payment should be based on trade union rates of pay for similar work, and that that basis—that is, the actual commercial wage—should form the basis of all contract tender prices. For the reasons stated above, however, it is in the large majority of cases impossible for the blind worker to earn a living wage at trade union rates of pay, and this wage requires to be augmented.

What the system should be has been the subject of very careful and prolonged discussion, and the Committee have come to the conclusion that a fixed sum of 15s. per week should be given by way of compensation for the deficit of blindness to all workers earning up to 5s. per week at trade union or other standard rates of pay. Where over 5s. is earned per week at such rate the grant should be reduced by 4d. in the 1s. for every 1s. earned over 5s. Such a system at once provides an incentive to work, and offers no inducement to malingering.

(b) The Committee have been much impressed with the need for securing continuity of employment for blind workers who are entirely dependent on their own particular handicraft for a living. To that end they make recommendations, as a result of which a conference was held with the several spending departments of the Government, and their consent was obtained to a scheme whereby the departments concerned will put as much work as possible at the disposal of these workshops. No preference as regards quality or price was sought for or desired. At the same time it was essential that the articles made to contract at any workshop as a result of the operation of the scheme should be of standard quality, and for this reason the Committee did not feel that they could in the first instance properly recommend for inclusion in the scheme more than a limited number of workshops which were accustomed to undertake Government contracts.

(c) There is great room for closer co-operation between Workshops for the Blind and also for co-operative buying of raw material and selling the finished products. (d) The need of a uniform system of keeping the trading accounts of workshops has been carefully considered, and a skeleton form of accounts suggested.

In regard to Education the recent Education Bill, now passed into law as the Education Act, 1918, received early attention, and its clauses were carefully scrutinised with a view to safeguarding the interests of blind children. The Act as passed makes it clear that nothing in it affects the age limit of sixteen for compulsory elementary education fixed by the Elementary Education (Blind and Deaf Children) Act, 1893, or the liability of a parent for the expenses incurred in the education of a blind child, and the provisions as to the avoidance of broken terms is made expressly applicable to blind children.

The Committee took the opportunity of expressing the hope that compulsion could be made to provide for the further training of blind persons after sixteen years of age.

The question of the physical training of blind children is under consideration, and the Committee are engaged in the preparation of a uniform syllabus of training in the several branches of blind industry, namely, basket-making, brush-making, boot and shoe making and repairing, chair-seating, mat-making, knitting (machine and hand), piano tuning, repairing, and construction, spinning and weaving, and typewriting and shorthand. The general question of the musical education of blind children is also under consideration.

The setting up of Local Advisory Committees is referred to, and the existence of the seven County Associations of Societies for the Blind finally determined that the new Committees be built round them. The Report, price 9d. net, can be purchased through any bookseller, and we strongly recommend our readers to buy copies.

(B) The Regulations under which grants will be paid, price 3d. net, open with a letter from Sir Robert L. Morant, Secretary to the Ministry of Health, who refers to the estimate which has been laid before Parliament for a grant to be distributed in aid of certain services carried on for the benefit of the Blind and a statement as to the services for which the grant will be available. The regulations are a temporary expedient pending legislation.

